



Brighton Council

1 Tivoli Road

Old Beach TAS 7017

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BRIGHTON COUNCIL COVID 19 UPDATE – 3 June 2020

Brighton Council has announced a broad range of measures in response to the COVID-19 emergency.

Council continues to operate strictly in accordance with restrictions and guidelines from government and health officials in order to ensure we reduce the risk for the community and our staff. We have ensured that all information shared in relation to COVID-19 has been sourced directly from the Tasmanian Government Department of Health or Australian Department of Health.

On **Friday 5 June 2020 at 3pm**, Tasmania will **move into Stage 2** of the Road Map to Recovery, with further restrictions being lifted. Information on the details of Stage 2 can be found at <https://coronavirus.tas.gov.au/>

Please read on for further information about the changes to Council services as a result. We will continue to update this as the situation unfolds. Given the nature of COVID-19 we do not know how long closures will last or what other services will be affected in the future. Please keep an eye on our website and social media for further updates.

SERVICES AND FACILITIES

Re-opening of Brighton Council Offices to General Public

Brighton Council Offices will **RE-OPEN TO THE PUBLIC from 8.30am Tuesday, 9 June 2020**. Please remember Monday, 8 June is a public holiday.

The Council Offices at 1 Tivoli Road, Old Beach will be returning to normal hours of operation, Monday to Friday 8.30am – 4.30pm, BUT with some changes to how we serve you.

In order to maintain a safe environment for members of the public and staff, we ask that you please email or phone us (see contact details below) to make an appointment before coming to the office for any matters related to:

- Building
- Planning
- Plumbing
- Environmental Health

Please keep in mind you can continue to contact us via one of these alternative methods if a visit to the office is not essential.

- Email – admin@brighton.tas.gov.au
- Phone – 6268 7000
- Facebook – search for Brighton Council Tasmania
- Website – Check out our website for all Council information including forms and links to assist you to carry out your business

Should you need to visit the Council Offices please make use of the hand sanitiser available at the entrance, remember to maintain a physical distance from others of at least 1.5 metres at all times and please do stay at home if you are sick. Don't forget to download the COVID Safe app to your phone to help keep you and others safe when you are out and about.

We truly appreciate your support and patience during the COVID-19 situation.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT MEASURES

Council has commenced implementing financial support measures for residents and ratepayers.

An economic support package was fully endorsed by Council at the Ordinary Council Meeting on 21 April, along with an updated Financial Hardship Assistance policy.

These measures include:

1. A 0% increase in rates for the 2020/21 financial year.
2. Any other fees and charges, if increased, will only rise in line with the CPI.
3. Principle of no penalties, charges, interest or debt collection for late rate payments and extended payment periods until June 30, 2020.
4. The suspension of debt collection and accumulation of interest on outstanding rates until June 30, 2020, allowing flexibility on the payment of rates and other debts if requested.
5. Council will implement a system of immediate payment of all invoices received from small or local businesses. Council to settle accounts within 14 days or shorter regardless of trade terms.
6. Rent relief on council owned buildings where tenants are experiencing financial hardship until 30 June 2020.
7. Community grants to be refocused as appropriate to support local businesses and not-for-profit recovery or conversion to digital environment or circular economy until June 30, 2021.
8. Council will favourably support loan guarantees, subject to Council approval, for community groups where current financial hardship is demonstrated and where the long-term operating position is stable.

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETINGS AND COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Minister for Local Government has **formalised arrangements for local councils to meet remotely** during the COVID-19 emergency.

Ordinary Meetings of the Brighton Council will be held as scheduled using remote meeting technologies and the recordings will be made available to the public as soon as practicable after each meeting via Council's website.

The notice from the Minister, which came into force from 4 April 2020, addresses these issues by:

- allowing for councils to meet via teleconference and video conference;
- ensuring that councils can authorise and sign certain documents electronically; and
- allowing for documents that would ordinarily need to be available at council offices in hard copy to instead be accessible online.

All Council committee meetings have been put on hold until further notice. Any matters that would have normally been dealt with in committee, will be taken to Ordinary Council Meetings. A schedule of committee meetings from July – December 2020 has been provided on Council’s website but these dates will be subject to the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions in Tasmania.

COUNCIL’S COVID-19 COMMUNICATIONS

- A letter from Mayor Tony Foster was sent to all residents at the end of April 2020 summarising Council’s operations during this time. In addition, the Mayor has provided the following communications:
 - An Easter message from the Mayor was posted on Council’s Facebook page on April 9.
 - ANZAC Day messages from the Mayor were posted on Council’s Facebook page on April 24 and 25 with images of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor laying wreaths at Remembrance Park on ANZAC Day.
 - The Mayor provided a media release on April 22 regarding the endorsement of financial support measures during COVID-19 for the Brighton community. This media release can be found on Council’s website and was posted on Council’s Facebook page.
 - May 9 - Message from the Mayor on Facebook regarding the release of Tasmania’s Roadmap to Recovery by the Premier.
 - May 12 – Message from the Mayor on Facebook regarding the upcoming changes to restrictions with Stage 1 effective from 18 May 2020.
 - May 17 – Message from the Mayor on Facebook as a reminder that the Stage 1 easing of restrictions would come into effect 18 May 2020 and reminding everyone to remain vigilant and do the right thing.
- In April, Council distributed a COVID-19 flyer to all residents in response to concerns around keeping those without digital access informed. The State Government’s Public Information Unit (PIU) in partnership with the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) provided a double A4 flyer to all councils for this purpose. The content included:
 - Social distancing info – what this means and why it’s important.
 - Where to find important COVID-19 information.
 - How to get help – e.g. mental health services.
 - A message from the Premier.
- Council continues to keep our local community informed and connected through regular posts and updates on:
 - The Brighton Council Facebook page
 - Brighton Community News (BCN) and BCN Facebook page
 - Brighton Council website

Waste Management Services

Brighton Council's kerbside rubbish and recycling collections are considered essential services and are operating as normal.

The Bridgewater Waste Transfer Station at 131 Cove Hill Road will continue to operate during normal trading hours.

Fri – Mon from 8.30am to 4.30pm

Tues – Thurs – CLOSED

Public Playgrounds, Skate Parks, Parks and Reserves

Public playgrounds, skate parks, parks and Council reserves within the municipal area are now open under the Stage 1 Roadmap to Recovery restrictions (effective from 18 May 2020). Gatherings increased to 10 people for indoor and outdoor gatherings, with physical distancing of 1.5 metres and a maximum of one person per 4 square metres applicable.

Up to 10 people at one time can use outside gyms, skate parks and play equipment in public playgrounds; do outdoor exercise including boot camps and sports training; and use indoor and outdoor pools. Parks can be used for activities other than exercising, such as picnics, as long as physical distancing is maintained.

As we move into Stage 2 of the Tasmanian State Government plan for lifting restrictions, we ask for the community's assistance in ensuring these restrictions for Stage 2 are adhered to. The health and safety of the community is our priority.

To assist with staying safe during this time, consider downloading the **COVIDSafe app**. This speeds up contacting people exposed to coronavirus (COVID-19). Please read the content on the following web page before downloading: [COVIDSafe App](#)

Community centres/halls/meeting rooms

The hiring of community centres, meeting rooms and halls will recommence from **Friday 5 June 2020 at 3pm** under **Stage 2 guidelines**. All regular hirers will be required to submit a COVID-19 safety plan prior to recommencing their activities. For enquiries please call 6268 7000 or email cathy.harper@brighton.tas.gov.au

Immunisations

Council's monthly immunisation sessions at the Brighton Civic Centre in Bridgewater will continue to operate with no change to dates and times at this stage.

EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

If you are feeling anxious, stressed, concerned or overwhelmed there are people to talk to from the following support services:

- Lifeline: 13 11 14 (24 hours, 7 days)
- Beyond Blue: 1300 224 636 (24 hours, 7 days)
- MensLine Australia: 1300 789 978 (24 hours, 7 days)
- Kids Helpline: 1800 551 800 (24 hours, 7 days)
- Headspace for young people: 1800 650 890

REMAIN VIGILANT

It is extremely important for the community to take notice of the advice from the Tasmanian Government and the Australian Government Department of Health, particularly in relation to hygiene measures and social distancing to slow the spread of COVID-19.

For information on this please see:

Australian Government Department of Health website - www.health.gov.au

Tasmanian Government Department of Health website - www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au

Stay Healthy, Stay Connected Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/stayhealthystayconnected/>