

Assistance for severely affected regions

The Government will set aside \$1 billion to support regions and communities most significantly affected by the Coronavirus. These funds will be available to assist during the next few months and over the year ahead to ensure these communities are well placed to recover.

SUPPORT FOR CORONAVIRUS-AFFECTED REGIONS AND COMMUNITIES

Summary

The Government has set aside an initial \$1 billion allocation to support those regions and communities that have been disproportionately affected by the economic impacts of the Coronavirus, including those heavily reliant on industries such as tourism, agriculture and education. The \$1 billion will be provided through existing or newly established Government programs.

This will include the waiver of the Environmental Management Charge for tourism businesses that operate in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and the waiver of entry fees for Commonwealth National Parks. It will also include additional assistance to help businesses identify alternative export markets or supply chains. Targeted measures will also be developed to further promote domestic tourism.

Eligibility

The Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment will work with affected industries and communities to develop recovery plans and measures.

Timing

The \$1 billion will be available for distribution through existing or new mechanisms as soon as practicable.

Budget impact

This measure will be funded with an initial \$1 billion.

As an initial measure, the Government will waive the Environmental Management Charge (EMC) for tourism businesses that operate in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park for the remainder of 2020. The Government will also waive park entry fees for the iconic Kakadu, Uluru, and Booderee National Parks for the remainder of 2020. This will provide much needed relief for the tourism industry and further encourage visitors to these amazing places. The Government will ensure there is no reduction in revenue that goes to the management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and Commonwealth National Parks. Lease payments to Traditional Owners in relation to these National Parks will not be impacted.

ATO ADMINISTRATIVE RELIEF

Summary

The Australian Tax Office (ATO) will provide administrative relief for certain tax obligations (similar to relief provided following the bushfires) for taxpayers affected by the Coronavirus outbreak, on a case-by-case basis. The ATO will set up a temporary shop front in Cairns within the next few weeks with dedicated staff specialising in assisting small business. In addition, the ATO will consider ways to enhance its presence in other significantly affected regions to make it easier for people to apply for relief, including considering further temporary shop fronts and face-to-face options.

Eligibility

All taxpayers affected by the Coronavirus outbreak can contact the ATO for assistance. Taxpayers can contact the ATO on 1800 806 218 or visit the ATO website at ato.gov.au for further information.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information on the Australian Government's Economic Response to Coronavirus visit treasury.gov.au/coronavirus.