**Live Performance Australia – Member News**

**17th March, 2020**

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) - Member Advice Update #7**

* Federal Government economic stimulus package
* State and territory government economic stimulus packages
* Government directives banning mass gatherings

Federal Government economic stimulus package

On 12 March 2020, the Federal Government announced a [$17.6 billion stimulus package](https://treasury.gov.au/coronavirus) in response to COVID-19.

LPA is continuing to advocate for [targeted measures](https://liveperformance.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/LPA-MR-LPA-calls-for-live-performance-support-and-stimulus-package-17-March-2020-1.pdf) for the live performance industry.

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**State and territory government economic stimulus packages**

The following state and territory governments have announced economic stimulus packages in response to COVID-19.

**New South Wales**

The New South Wales Government has [announced](https://www.nsw.gov.au/your-government/the-premier/media-releases-from-the-premier/2-3-billion-health-boost-and-economic-stimulus/) a $2.3 billion stimulus package. $1.6 billion will be provided in tax relief for small businesses, including:

* $450 million to waive payroll tax for businesses with payrolls of up to $10 million for three months
* $1 million payroll tax threshold being brought forward to July 1, 2020
* $80 million to waive fees and charges for small businesses
* $250 million for public schools and state-owned buildings to employ more cleaners.

**Queensland**

The Queensland Government has [established](http://statements.qld.gov.au/Statement/2020/3/17/palaszczuk-government-offers-500m-in-loans-to-support-workers-in-businesses-affected-by-coronavirus) a $500 million concessional loan facility designed to support businesses in Queensland and retain staff. The loan facility will comprise loans of up to $250,000 with an initial 12-month interest fee period for businesses. Information on the concessional loans will be [available](http://www.qrida.qld.gov.au/) from the end of this week.

The Queensland Government will also extend the coronavirus payroll tax deferral to all businesses across the state. The Office of State Revenue will also work with affected businesses to create repayment plans for the deferred tax liabilities. Information on payroll tax deferral can be found [here](https://www.treasury.qld.gov.au/budget-and-financial-management/revenue-and-taxation/).

**Western Australia**

The West Australian Government has [announced](https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2020/03/COVID-19-economic-response-Relief-for-businesses-and-households.aspx) a $607 million economic stimulus package. $114 million will be provided to support small and medium businesses, including:

* Payroll tax paying businesses with a payroll between $1 million and $4 million receiving a one-off grant of $17,500
* $1 million payroll tax threshold being brought forward by six months to July 1, 2020
* Small businesses impacted by COVID-19 (this is available to employers who pay $7.5 million or less in Australian Taxable Wages and have been directly or indirectly impacted by COVID-19, compared to normal operating conditions) can [apply to defer payment](https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/department-of-finance) of 2019-2020 payroll tax until July 21, 2020.

**South Australia**

The South Australian Government has [announced](https://www.premier.sa.gov.au/news/media-releases/news/unprecedented-response-and-economic-stimulus-to-drive-sa-jobs%2C-economy-in-wake-of-bushfires%2C-coronavirus2) a $350 million economic stimulus package. The package will include investment in tourism infrastructure and increased funding for the state’s Economic and Business Growth Fund to support industry sectors. Details of the package are not yet known.

**Tasmania**

The Tasmanian Government has [announced](http://www.premier.tas.gov.au/releases/ministerial_statement_covid-19_response_measures) a $420 million economic stimulus package in response to COVID-19. Initiatives include:

* $20 million for the provision of interest free loans to businesses in the hospitality and tourism sectors.
* Waiving payroll tax for the last four months of this financial year for hospitality and tourism businesses during 2020
* $9 million for other small to medium businesses with an annual payroll of up to $5 million in Australian wages can apply to waive their payroll tax payments for March-June 2020
* Assisting the cash flow of small business by reducing the terms of trade payable by government agencies to 14 days
* $50 million in interest free loans over three years to encourage local governments to invest and employ more Tasmanians to upgrade, renovate and improve tourism assets.

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**Government directives banning mass gatherings**

Following the Prime Minister’s directive on [15 March 2020](https://www.pm.gov.au/media/transcript-press-conference) that non-essential gatherings of more than 500 people are banned from Monday 16 March 2020, state and territory governments have moved to enact legislation to effect this measure.

Updated details about mass gatherings for each state and territory are listed below:

**New South Wales:** The New South Wales Public Health (COVID-19 Public Events) Order 2020 directs that from **March 16 2020 - June 14 2020** a person must not hold a public event at which there are, or are likely to be, 500 persons or more in attendance at any one time. This includes any sporting, musical, cultural or entertainment event or any festival. Further details can be found [here](https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/diseases/Documents/covid-19-public-events-order-20200315.pdf).

**Victoria:** The Victorian Government has declared a four-week State of Emergency effective **noon 16 March 2020 - midnight 13 April 2020**. During this time, a person must not organise, allow or attend a non-essential mass gathering of over 500 people. This includes cultural events. Further details can be found [here](https://www.premier.vic.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/200316-State-Of-Emergency-Declared-In-Victoria-Over-COVID-19.pdf).

**Queensland:** The Queensland Government announced a Public Health Emergency on **January 29 2020** and has advised, as a [precautionary measure](https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/find-the-facts/faqs-and-myth-busters), that all non-essential organised gatherings of more than 500 people should not go ahead from **16 March 2020**.

**Western Australia:** The WA Government has [announced](https://www.facebook.com/MarkMcGowanMP/posts/3828314353853077) a Public Health Emergency and a State of Emergency effective **15 March 2020**. During this time, all non-essential, organised gatherings of 500 or more people are banned.

**South Australia:** The South Australian Government has [announced](https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-03-15/coronavirus-prompts-declaration-of-public-health-emergency-in-sa/12057684) a Public Health Emergency effective **15 March 2020**; however, specific details about mass gatherings are not yet known.

**Tasmania:** The Tasmanian Government has [announced](http://www.premier.tas.gov.au/releases/ministerial_statement_covid-19_response_measures) a Public Health Emergency effective **17 March 2020**. This includes the decision to limit mass participation public events for over 500 people.

**Australian Capital Territory:** The ACT Government has [announced](https://www.cmtedd.act.gov.au/open_government/inform/act_government_media_releases/barr/2020/public-health-emergency-declared-for-act) a Public Health Emergency effective **16 March 2020**. This includes the requirement that non-essential, organised public gatherings of more than 500 people should not occur.

**Northern Territory:** The NT Government has [advised](https://securent.nt.gov.au/alerts/coronavirus-covid-19-updates) that static non-essential gatherings of more than 500 people will be prevented. This requirement will stay in place until further notice.

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