

Immediate Industry Recovery Package

COVID-19 (coronavirus)



Overview

The COVID-19 (coronavirus) outbreak has the potential to impose a wide range of direct and indirect costs to Queensland's economy. The Queensland Government has acted quickly following advice from industry about how tough business has been, after the coronavirus struck in January. An Immediate Industry Recovery Package, valued at \$27.25m, will provide relief to affected Queensland industries, businesses and workers to help deal with the impact of the coronavirus outbreak. The package will help sustain jobs while work continues to contain the coronavirus.

Support for small business and exporters

A suite of initiatives will be available to support small businesses to build resilience, grow and succeed, including financial workshops in partnership with local peak bodies and business mentoring to help Small to Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and a small business hotline (1300 654 687). The \$1.1 million 'Market Ready' initiative will provide tailored export advice to SMEs on leveraging opportunities in the Chinese online market, provide market intelligence and expert advice for exporters entering new markets and host export forums to provide practical advice. Further information can be accessed from www.tiq.qld.gov.au/market-ready.

Support for industry

Market diversification and resilience grants will be available to support activities for the fishing industry including, but not limited to, market evaluation studies, market visits, training, new processing equipment such as refrigeration or cryovac machines, and boat modifications necessary to meet new market requirements. The catch area for tropical rock lobster will be extended for three months from late February to reduce operating costs for quota holders and enable alternative markets to be developed. Government will also temporarily waive fishing boat licence fees and quota fees for tropical rock lobster and coral trout, with fees and charges relief for tourism operators also provided.



Support for tourism operators and hospitality providers

Fees and charges relief for tourism operators impacted include:

- waiving application fees for some variations to liquor licences
- waiving registration fees for Inbound Tour Operators
- waiving of Daily Fees for Commercial Activity Agreements and Permits
- rebate on Marina Charges and Passenger Levies
- deferral of Tourism Lease Rent Payments.



Marketing and promotion

There will be a suite of marketing activities delivered to target new and existing markets, funding for campaigns to promote Queensland to international markets (in conjunction with Tourism Australia), a targeted tourism campaign to promote Tropical North Queensland and the Gold Coast, an #eatqld campaign to encourage Queenslanders to buy local seafood and other agricultural produce and a 'Study Queensland' campaign to diversify the international student market and support re-entry from Chinese students.

Student support and counselling

An additional \$1 million will be available to increase student support services across Queensland to help impacted students returning to study, including providing information, advice and referrals on health care, employment, budget management, accommodation and legal services, as well as connecting students to social events and activities.

The Queensland Government also stands ready to activate rapid response teams made up of government agencies to fast-track support for workers who may be displaced by affected industries and businesses.

Further information on these initiatives is available at www.qld.gov.au/industryrecovery or by contacting 13QGov (13 74 68)