

From: Stewart Todd [<mailto:gm@narrabri.nsw.gov.au>]

Sent: Tuesday, 31 March 2020 3:23 PM

To:

Subject: * PRESIDENT UPDATE * COVID-19 : LG Professionals, NSW

Importance: High

Fellow General Managers / CEOs,

I managed to scrap a few minutes together – I am sure we are all stretched at this time – to put together this update on the developments regarding COVID-19 and how our association is responding.

Firstly, thank you to those that could join our online meeting yesterday. We again apologise for the short notice, and from the feedback received the discussion around how councils are managing their business and workforces through the pandemic was invaluable and provided some “generally agreed” positions to move forward from.

Yesterday I wrote to the Federal Minister for Local Government, Mark Coulton outlining our collective concerns around the ongoing financial sustainability of councils through this period. Specifically, I requested confirmation that any Federal Government wage subsidy package will apply to local government, supporting our efforts to retain valued and skilled staff through this time. I also pushed for consideration to be given by both Federal and State Governments to develop a stimulus package similar to the previously released Drought Stimulus package(s).

The association is convening a meeting this week with a group of CFOs and Directors to discuss the financial implications the government directives will have on councils and considerations of what a stimulus package should and may look like. We will share the outcomes from this working group with both the Federal and State Minister as well as yourselves. We invite you to provide comments for the group to consider in the [online forum](#).

Today I wrote to Minister Hancock, regarding the above stimulus package but also flagging our intent to request LGNSW apply to the Industrial Relations Commission to:

- Include stand down provisions in the Award (should councils wish to exercise these)
- Relax the Award in respect to:
 - The spread of ordinary hours,
 - Allow a reduction in ordinary hours; and
 - A reduction in the notice period to direct employees to take leave and in the event of a council having to close down operations, the council can direct relevant employees to take leave under the reduced notice period.

Copies of both of these letters have been placed in the General Manager Portal for your reference.

I have been in contact with Adam Dansie at LGNSW and this afternoon will formalise the association’s request on behalf of our members that an application to the Industrial Relations Commission is made.

This is not a time for local government stakeholders to be obstinate in their thinking and position – all involved will need to make sacrifices – we are all in this together.

(Note: Unrelated content deleted here for publication in depaNews)

Regards

Stewart Todd

President

LG Professionals, NSW