



April 2020

On Monday, 16 March the Redlands Coast Chamber of Commerce issued a survey to its database of almost 2000. The purpose of this survey was to gauge the reaction of our business community to the evolving COVID-19 situation and provide feedback to the Council on how best they could assist the businesses of Redland city.

As a Chamber, our role is to provide our business community with the support that they need to continue to prosper under all economic conditions. We felt the best way to support businesses during this time was to provide the feedback from the survey directly to the Council to assist in implementing a stimulus package that would translate into immediate and ongoing assistance.

As at 1:30 pm on Monday the Chamber had received close to 150 responses, It became immediately evident that many of our micro and SME businesses would significantly suffer from the economic conditions ahead. We have continued to provide feedback on survey results on a daily basis to the Council, prompting Mayor Karen Williams to work with us to issue a proposed Business Stimulus Plan.

Initiatives being proposed would "ensure local businesses can keep the doors open so their employees can put food on the table for their local families". The Chamber will be also working on an ongoing basis with the Economic Development Department at Council while care taker mode is in effect, through working with this department the Council elected will be able to hit the ground running with information being provided directly from the business community, giving our local economy the very best chance to recover as quickly as possible.

It is also important to understand that along with the stimulus package our Council will put in place \$2 billion dollars worth of infrastructure initiatives. These initiatives include the revitalisation of Capalaba's CBD. It is important to understand how infrastructure supports our economy,

Infrastructure = attraction of population

Population growth = investment both from State and Federal Government and the private sector

Investment = jobs growth

Jobs growth = strong economy

All key industries, in particular construction, retail and tourism benefit from the Council committing to infrastructure spending!

We would like to thank the many businesses who have taken the time to participate in our survey, we are very happy with the team at the Council who have taken these results and acted promptly to assist as quickly as possible.

We will continue to work with all levels of government during these challenging times and as always I will finish my report to encourage anyone who want feedback to contact me directly,

Rebecca Young