

Barton Deakin Brief: SA Coronavirus Economic and Community Measures

23 March 2020

Overview

The South Australian Government announced a stimulus package on the 11th March 2020 to help support local jobs and industry in the face of the Coronavirus crisis. The State Government has also taken steps to limit the spread of the disease with travel restrictions and quarantine requirements.

The stimulus measures by the SA Government sit alongside Federal Government spending. Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Treasurer Josh Frydenberg announced the second federal stimulus package on the 22nd March. This second round was in addition to the previous package which included support for businesses with apprentices, an increase to the Instant Asset Write Off scheme, regional and community support and a \$2.4 billion health package. See the Barton Deakin Briefs on the [first](#) and [second](#) federal government stimulus packages for more information.

For more information on other State-based responses to the Coronavirus crisis, see the briefs from Barton Deakin and Hawker Britton: the [NSW Government package](#), the [Victorian Government economic and healthcare response](#), the [ACT Covid-19 Stimulus Package](#), the [Northern Territory Economic Response](#), the [Queensland Government response](#) and the [Western Australian Economic Stimulus Package](#).

Economic Measures

On the 11th March, the South Australian Premier Steven Marshall announced a \$350 million stimulus package to bring forward existing infrastructure projects and establish new projects in road maintenance, housing, tourism and health. The package includes \$22 million in funding for nature-based tourism infrastructure. Additionally, \$15 million will go to upgrading country hospitals. Also included in the package is a doubling of the Planning and Development Fund, which is a 50:50 State and Local Government arrangement now with \$50 million in funding available. This will see local projects fast-tracked.

The State Government has added to small business support from the Federal Government by providing businesses funding to hire new apprentices and trainees. The State-based \$12 million skills package will see small businesses receiving up to \$5,000 for every new apprentice or trainee hired on a paid training contract as part of the Skills for Business scheme.

South Australian foster and kinship carers will also receive a one-off \$200 payment for each child or young person in their care. The SA Government has committed \$720,000 to this measure.

The final stimulus measure announced by the Government is the bringing forward of the Regional Growth Fund application opening date. Projects that will strengthen regional communities and provide tangible social benefits can apply for \$5 million in a competitive application.



Given the full details of the \$350 million stimulus spending package were not released with its announcement, we are yet to see what other initiatives may be funded. As the crisis progresses, the State and Federal Governments may announce additional support measures.

Community Measures

Mass Gatherings

- Defined as:
 - o 500 people or more in a single undivided outdoor space at the same time.
 - o 100 people or more in a single undivided indoor space at the same time.
 - o Fewer than 100 people in a single undivided indoor space when there is less than four square metres space per person in the space.
- Owners, controllers and operators of premises in SA must not allow a mass gathering to occur on the premises.
- Individuals must not organise mass gatherings anywhere in SA.
- Individuals must not attend mass gatherings anywhere in SA.
- Exemptions include:
 - o Airports and public transport
 - o Medical or health service facilities and disability or aged care facilities
 - o Emergency services
 - o Courts and prisons
 - o Parliaments
 - o Food shops
 - o Office buildings
 - o Schools, universities and childcare facilities, excluding events outside of normal operations
 - o Hotels and motels

Aged Care Facilities

- The Federal Government issued [these directives](#):
 - o Do not visit aged care facilities if you have: returned from overseas in the last 14 days; been in contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the last 14 days; or have a fever or symptoms of a respiratory infection such as a cough, sore throat or shortness of breath
 - o If you have not received this year's influenza vaccine by the 1st May 2020, you cannot visit an aged care facility
 - o Aged care facilities must take the following extra precautions when it comes to visits: keep visits short, allow no more than two visitors at a time including doctors, make sure visits occur in residents' rooms rather than communal areas
 - o No school groups
 - o No children under the age of 16 except in special circumstances

Quarantining (see [here](#) for more information)

- Anyone who arrives into SA must isolate for 14 days from their arrival, including South Australians, other Australians and any other travellers to SA.
- SA Police will periodically check that people are complying and may take further action against anyone who does not comply.



- Isolation means staying in a particular room of a house or hotel and not leaving except to seek medical care. Food and medicine must be brought by someone who is not isolating or be ordered and delivered to the door.
- Exemptions to isolating and travel restrictions include:
 - Arriving health personnel, patients and medical supplies
 - Food and commercial supply chains
 - Near border interactions
 - Travel of relatives or carers of a dependent individual
 - Emergency services
 - Fly-in-fly-out workers in the mining industry and national level sporting teams

Testing

- Testing criteria now include anyone who has travelled interstate in the last seven days and has new respiratory symptoms. This does not include South Australians who live and work at the border. These criteria must be met to be tested:
 - You have travelled overseas in the past 14 days and have symptoms
 - You have travelled interstate in the past 7 days and have new symptoms
 - You have been in contact with a confirmed case and have symptoms
 - You are a healthcare worker with direct patient contact and you have a fever and an acute respiratory infection

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