Wodonga Council has acted with an immediate suite of measures to support our community and businesses to lessen the financial burden of during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### RESIDENTS

1. For those on quarterly instalments, the fourth rate instalment due date will be extended to June 30, 2020.
2. Residential ratepayers are able to enter into a payment arrangement or apply for financial hardship consideration regarding rates. Each case assessed on individual circumstances with outcomes customised according to the needs of each case.
3. Interest will not be charged for overdue rates, or other payments through to June 30, 2020.
5. Continue to maintain a vulnerable person’s register as described by the Department of Health and Human Services. The council’s Pandemic Committee will work with partner agencies to assist the most vulnerable in our community.
6. Providing podcasts, online and phone services to encourage connectivity for library patrons.
7. Compliance and enforcement action prioritised to issues of public and environmental safety risk.
8. Keeping website up to date with the latest information/links from the Federal/State government advice and council services.

### SPORTING/COMMUNITY GROUPS

10. Not charging seasonal licence agreements while there is no sporting use.
11. Foregoing maintenance for a quarter for all sporting club leases.

### BUSINESSES

12. Paying all suppliers as quickly as possible.
13. Business ratepayers are able to enter into a payment arrangement or apply for financial hardship consideration regarding rates. Each case assessed on individual circumstances with outcomes customised according to the needs of each case.
14. Businesses eligible for any current federal and state government funding schemes will automatically be eligible for a rates deferral to 2020-2021. Landlords and tenants are asked to communicate with each other to ensure the benefits of rate deferral for eligible businesses is passed on to the tenant.
16. Interest will not be charged for overdue rates, or other payments through to June 30, 2020.
17. Placing a hold on debt recovery until June 30, 2020.
18. No interest will be raised on business rates from March 16, 2020, the date a State of Emergency was declared, until June 30, 2020.
19. Facilitate and fast-track development applications where possible to assist businesses attempting to diversify, adapt or expand.
20. Working with Business Wodonga on information and assistance for local businesses.
21. Supplying regular updates on what support is available and promoting changed operation conditions.

### ADVOCACY, LOBBYING AND GRANT READINESS

22. Reviewing current and potential capital projects’ “readiness” to support recovery.
23. Collaborating on advocacy efforts with the Hume region council counterparts, AlburyCity, Albury Wodonga Health, Regional Cities Victoria and peak bodies.
24. Continue to lobby the State and Federal Governments (including the Federal Treasurer) to increase and expedite Federal Assistance Grants to allow councils to provide targeted rate relief.
25. Collaborate with the Victorian Government to identify the most efficient process for our community to access upcoming state funding programs.
26. Provision of appropriate shovel ready capital projects to the federal government to stimulate our local economy through construction activity.
27. Working with Regional Development Victoria to be “project ready” when funding becomes available to provide stimulus to the local economy through creating employment opportunities and engaging local contractors.