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MEDIA RELEASE

“Council Backs Local Businesses”

Quilpie Shire Council will be making a number of support initiatives available to local business operators directly impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic.

Council’s Mayor, Stuart Mackenzie, says a number of small business owners across the shire have experienced significant income reductions.

“We have businesses that have been ordered to close, or provide very limited services and they are simply facing a real risk of going out of business altogether unless we get behind them and offer support”, Cr Mackenzie said.

“We have approached business across the shire and discussed with them the negative effects they are experiencing and asking for suggestions on how Council may be able to assist”, he said.

At a workshop held last Friday, Council considered just what could be done.

Business severely impacted by way of loss of income by the restrictions (eg currently closed) may apply to council in writing to apply for hardship assistance with rates and charges.

Applications may also be made for ‘exceptional hardship’ assistance for those businesses or enterprises that can clearly demonstrate that their business or enterprise will not survive if the restrictions continue.

Cr Mackenzie says Council will be looking to bring forward projects where possible to provide local purchasing opportunities and allow contractors to come in the shire to stimulate the local economy.

“It is important to note that local contractors will be used wherever possible, however there are some services not available from within the shire area”, he said.

Council will also be investing extra money to promote the region to encourage tourism when restrictions are lifted.

Cr Mackenzie concluded by emphasising that the best way to help our suffering small business operators is to shop local - take the time to buy that take away coffee or meal now and make the effort to support the closed businesses when they are open again. They desperately need that support.

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