

# MEMBER ADVISORY (QLD and NSW): FLOOD DISASTER SUPPORT



3 MARCH 2022

## BACKGROUND

Areas of southern Queensland and regions along the coastline of NSW from the Queensland border down to the Illawarra have been significantly impacted by major weather events over the last week. The impact on communities has been enormous and unfortunately at times tragic with the loss of lives. Businesses in these areas have been impacted both directly from the flooding and or as a result of road closures and related supply chain disruptions throughout those regions.

In this advisory, we aim to provide the currently known details on government and related support and assistance available to businesses impacted by this natural disaster. As governments finalise their assistance packages we will update members with those details.

## QUEENSLAND

It does not appear the QLD government has proposed business support measures that would apply to our industry at this time. Their support measures are aimed at individuals and households.

Currently QLD government are directing small businesses who have been impacted by recent flooding to the federal government assistance services as detailed below.

## NEW SOUTH WALES

Currently the NSW government is finalising financial support packages for small businesses that have been impacted by the current flooding. Flood impacted businesses can lodge a request for notification of available small business grants when they become available by way of the following link: <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/campaign/storm-and-flood-assistance-businesses/storm-and-flood-disaster-recovery-small-business>

However, certain federal government assistance is available to impacted small businesses and individuals as detailed below.

## FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

The federal government has activated the Disaster Recovery Payment (AGDRP) of \$1000 per eligible adult and \$400 per eligible child to support people impacted by the South East Queensland flooding event that began on 22 February.

Additionally, the Prime Minister announced the Disaster Recovery Allowance (DRA) which aims to assist small business persons who experience a loss of income as a direct result from the recent flooding.

Eligible business and residents in the 26 Queensland and New South Wales local government areas can claim such support via myGov or by calling Services Australia on 180 22 66. Further information is available at the following link: <https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/natural-disaster>

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## AUSTRALIAN TAXATION OFFICE SUPPORT

The Australian Taxation Office has advised that flood impacted small businesses in the affected QLD and NSW local government areas who were required to lodge business activity statements of instalment notices with an original due date of February 28 or March 21, 2022, will now have until 28 March 2022.

**Impacted businesses will not need to request a lodgement deferral if lodgement is made by 28 March 2022. The ATO have advised that further deferrals may be available upon request.**

## FINANCIAL INSTITUTION SUPPORT

Numerous Australian banks have advised they are offering deferrals of business loan repayments for up to three (3) months for customers affected by the flood disasters in both QLD and NSW. Please contact your bank at your earliest convenience to discuss your situation and the needs of your business.

## IMPACTED BY FLOODING – PRACTICAL STEPS

If your business premises have been impacted by recent floods include:

- > Only returning to flooded premises only after given the all clear by emergency services.
- > If renting premises, contact your property manager as soon as possible to discuss options for rent deferrals and damage amelioration to premises.
- > Contact your insurer as soon as possible to seek guidance on lodging a claim and carrying out any work related to property damage.
- > If your business has been flooded, ensure an electrician has declared the site safe to turn on power.
- > List and take photos of any damage to property.
- > If possible, keep damaged property on site for insurance claim related purposes until your insurer has advised otherwise.

**Most importantly, ensure your safety and that of your employees when returning to premises if they have been impacted by flooding.**

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## CONTACT

Any Industrial Relations Member who has a related query should contact Charles Watson, GM – IR, Policy and Governance at The Real Media Collective via email: [charles@thermc.com.au](mailto:charles@thermc.com.au) or mobile: +61 428 568 032.

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