MEMBER ADVISORY (NSW): FLOOD DISASTER SUPPORT

8 July 2022

BACKGROUND
Numerous areas of NSW have been significantly impacted by major weather events over the last week. The severe weather and related flooding across many areas of NSW over the last week has resulted in approximately 100,000 citizens experiencing evacuation orders. The NSW Government has currently declared twenty-three (23) Local Government Areas within its Natural Disaster Declaration.

The effect of this weather event has caused untold damage to property, businesses, livestock, livelihoods, and no doubt individuals mental health. 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 NSW and Federal Government support and assistance available to individuals and businesses impacted by this natural disaster. As governments update their assistance packages we will update members with those details.

NEW SOUTH WALES SUPPORT
The NSW Government, through the Service NSW website, offers a range of personal and business financial, legal, insurance, and mental health related assistance programmes and support. These include business disaster recovery grants, personal relief grants, payroll tax assistance, licence and business document replacement, and other services. Any affected member should complete the Disaster Assistance Finder on the Service NSW website to determine the relevantly available support options: https://disasterassistance.service.nsw.gov.au/.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE
In response to the severe weather and flooding in NSW, the federal Government is making a range of lump sum payments and ongoing allowances available to those effected. From 7 July, claims can be made for the Australian Government Disaster Recovery payment via an individual's MyGov account. Additional information can be obtained through the Services Australia website.

AUSTRALIA POST SUPPORT
Additionally, Australia Post is offering free mail redirection for a period of up to 12 months for those businesses affected by this recent natural disaster.

ATO SUPPORT
The Australian Taxation Office has advised that flood impacted small businesses and individuals in NSW local government areas are able to make requests for deferrals for lodgements and payments, and seek to change reporting cycles. The ATO emergency support line is 1800 806 218.

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BANK SUPPORT

Numerous Australian banks have advised they are offering a range of disaster related support and assistance including loan payment deferrals, fee waivers and restructuring business loans. 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 return to those premises after given the all clear by emergency services.
- If renting premises, contact your property manager/owner 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.

CONTACT

Any 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 or mobile: +61 428 568 032.

DISCLAIMER

The content of this update, current at the date of publication, is intended to provide general guidance and consideration for TRMC Members only. The content does not constitute advice and should not be relied upon as such. Specific advice about your circumstances should be sought separately before taking any action. TRMC recommends Members ensure any related decisions are made on current and up to date information.