

# ASSISTANCE FOR SEVERELY AFFECTED REGIONS & SECTORS

# COVID-19 FACT SHEET

**The Government has set aside \$1 billion to support regions and industries hardest hit.**

## **SUPPORT FOR REGIONS, COMMUNITIES AND INDUSTRIES**

The Australian Government has set aside an initial \$1 billion to support those regions, communities and industries that have been disproportionately affected by the economic impacts of the COVID-19 coronavirus, including those heavily reliant on industries such as tourism, agriculture and education. The \$1 billion will be spent through existing or newly established Government programs or initiatives.

The \$1 billion fund will be used to provide additional assistance to help businesses identify alternative export markets or disrupted supply chains. Targeted measures will also be developed to further promote tourism.

## **SUPPORT FOR AUSTRALIAN AIRLINES AND AIRPORTS**

The Australian Government will provide initial support to our airline industry through an estimated \$715 million package of relief from a range of taxes and Government charges. This package will support our aviation sector through an unprecedented period of disruption to international and domestic air travel.

This includes reimbursing aviation fuel taxes, relief from Airservices

Australia charges, rebates for domestic aviation security and funding regional aviation security.

Our regions rely on air travel, and it is important we ensure this vital link survives the outbreak.

## **ATO ADMINISTRATIVE RELIEF**

The Australian Tax Office (ATO) will provide administrative relief for certain tax obligations (similar to relief provided following the bushfires) for taxpayers affected by the COVID-19 coronavirus outbreak, on a case-by-case basis.

This includes the ability to defer payment of certain taxes up to six months and allowing businesses to vary pay as you go instalment amounts to zero for the March 2020 quarter.

Business that vary to zero can claim a refund for any instalments made for the September 2019 and December 2019 quarters.

The ATO will also consider ways to enhance its presence in significantly affected regions, making it easier for people to apply for relief. The ATO is considering further temporary shop fronts and face-to-face options.

All taxpayers affected by the Coronavirus outbreak can contact the ATO for assistance. Taxpayers can contact the ATO on 1800 806 218 or visit the ATO website for further information at: [ato.gov.au](http://ato.gov.au).

## **Fast facts...**

- The Australian Government's economic response to the COVID-19 coronavirus totals \$189 billion across the forward estimates.
- A \$1 billion fund has been set up to support industries, communities and regions hardest-hit by the COVID-19 coronavirus.
- The airline industry and airports will benefit from a \$715 million relief package to ensure this sector survives the outbreak.
- The Australian Tax Office is providing relief for taxpayers affected by the COVID-19 coronavirus outbreak, on a case-by-case basis.