

Client eBrief



THE INSTITUTE
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BOOKKEEPERS



Energy Cost Assistance to Business

Energy retailers will provide assistance to business

The Australian Energy Regulator (AER) has set reasonable expectations of energy companies to protect small business customers during the COVID-19 pandemic. This extends important protections for energy customers and encourages retailers and customers to stay in contact and to reach out if they need help. These Protections for small business during COVID-19 have been extended to 31st October 2020.

Expectations for Energy Providers (extracted and adapted from The Australian Energy Regulator AER)

- All residential and small business customers who indicate they may be in financial stress, a payment plan or hardship arrangement will be offered. Advice is to stay on the plan as protection from disconnection, interest payments and late fees.
- Before 31st October 2020 (and potentially beyond), no disconnections – other than at request, any residential or small business customer who may be in financial stress. This is extended to any large business customer who may be in financial stress who is on-selling energy to residential and small business customers.
- Defer referrals of a retailer's customers to debt collection agencies for recovery actions, or credit default listing until at least 31st October 2020.
- Payment plans and flexibility to pay smaller amounts or over a longer period are being offered.
- Waive disconnection, reconnection and/or contract break fees for small businesses that have ceased operation, along with daily supply charges to retailers, during any period of disconnection until at least 31st October 2020.

For more information go to [The Australian Energy Regulator \(AER\)](#)

ATO Lodgement Dates

These dates are from the ATO website and do not take into account possible extensions.

You remain responsible for ensuring that the necessary information is with us in time.

BAS/IAS Monthly Lodgements

Final dates for lodgements and payments:

September Activity Statement:
21 October 2020

October Activity Statement:
21 November 2020

BAS Quarterly Lodgements

Final dates for lodgements and payments:

1st Quarter 2021 Financial Year:
September Quarter 2020 (incl. PAYGI)
28 October, 2020

2nd Quarter 2021 Financial Year:
December Quarter 2020 (incl. PAYGI)
28 February, 2021

When a due date falls on a Saturday, Sunday or Public Holiday*, you can lodge or pay on the next business day.

*A day that is a public holiday for the whole of any state or territory in Australia.

Due date for super guarantee contributions:

1st Quarter 2021 Financial Year:
July to September 2020 – contributions must be **in the fund** by 28 October, 2020

2nd Quarter 2021 Financial Year:
October to December 2020 – contributions must be **in the fund** by 28 January, 2021

Late payments of superannuation are **not** tax deductible.

If your business has late/overdue superannuation guarantee payments and you are unsure the correct process of how to proceed in regards to this, please contact us to discuss.



Commercial Rent Relief

Earlier in the year [The Government](#) announced a range of measures to help tenants and landlords affected by COVID-19 for the period during which the Commonwealth JobKeeper program remains operational.

This included a temporary hold on evictions and a mandatory code of conduct for commercial tenancies to support small and medium sized enterprises.

For some states, extensions to these measures have now been introduced to assist landlords to negotiate in good faith with regard to the principles of the [National Code](#). These measures are intended to expand the easing of financial hardship faced by tenants and landlords because of COVID-19.

You can find out how to access assistance through your relevant state or territory below.

Commercial Tenancy Relief Extended

Australian Capital Territory

An extension of the Commercial Tenancies Declaration was updated 10th September 2020. The new Declaration maintains the requirement for a landlord to engage in good faith negotiations with an impacted tenant before moving to terminate the lease or take other action against the tenant. The definition of an impacted tenant in the new Declaration reflects upcoming changes to the JobKeeper scheme that will be in effect from 28th September 2020. The new Declaration comes into effect on 28th September. It will stay in place until no later than 31st January 2021.

[ACT – Commercial Tenancies](#)

South Australia

Legislation has been introduced in South Australia to extend the [COVID-19 Emergency Response Act 2020](#) to assist businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The legislation is due to be debated in the Legislative Council in the week commencing 21st September 2020. Briefly, the Regulations impose an obligation on parties to commercial leases to negotiate in good faith.

Subject to the successful passage of this legislation, the current regulations will be amended and extended to 3rd January 2021.

[SA – Retail and Commercial Leases affected by COVID-19](#)

Victoria

On the 20th August 2020 the Victorian Government announced plans for an extension to the [Commercial Tenancy Relief Scheme \(CTRS\)](#) until 31st December 2020. By extending this scheme negotiations for rent relief between a commercial tenant and their landlord must now consider this legislation and the revised extension date.

[Victorian Commercial Landlord Hardship Fund](#) has been created in recognition of small, private landlords who may not have the capacity to provide rent reductions to their tenants under the requirements of the Commercial Tenancy Relief Scheme. Applications for the fund opened on the 21st August 2020.

Western Australia

WA – Commercial tenancies - COVID-19 response

The Western Australian State Government has decided to extend the emergency period under the [Commercial Tenancies \(COVID-19 Response\) Act 2020 \(WA\)](#) until 28th March 2021. This means that the existing laws, including the moratorium on evictions, freeze on rent increases and code of conduct will apply until this date. In line with the Government's modified JobKeeper program, the protections will be targeted to apply only to those tenants who experience financial hardship because of the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic.

Disclaimer: All or any advice contained in this newsletter is of a general nature only and may not apply to your individual business circumstances. For specific advice relating to your specific situation, please contact your accountant or contact me for further discussion.

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