



Robyn Preston MP

Member for Hawkesbury

MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW SMALL BUSINESS MONTH GRANTS OPEN TO LOCAL COUNCILS AND CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

Hawkesbury City Council and Hawkesbury Chamber of Commerce are being encouraged to apply for up to \$2,000 in grants to run activities in the local community as part of the 2020 NSW Small Business Month festival program.

The fourth annual NSW Small Business Month will be held in October, with events to be a combination of online and offline activities, so long as they are COVID-19 safe and adhere to the [NSW Health physical distancing guidelines](#).

This could include:

- Limiting the number of people in a venue (as of October 2020)
- Attendees at events remaining seated
- Hand sanitizer at all events
- Registration of all attendees
- Preparing and adhering to a COVID-safe plan.

Member for Hawkesbury Robyn Preston MP said the program would support regional enterprises to grow their businesses.

“Businesses in regional NSW have been hit by drought, bushfires, floods and COVID-19 and this program will pave the way for small businesses from the Hawkesbury to connect with other businesses and agencies,” Ms. Preston said.

“Last year almost half of all events were in the New England, North West and North Coast region. Other areas that hosted events included the Hunter and Central Coast and Riverina and Far West.

“It would be wonderful if our local council and chambers of commerce were able to host events this year.”

Minister for Finance and Small Business Damien Tudehope said this year’s festival activities were designed to help small business owners to get online, adapt their business practices and engage with other organisations.

“2020 has already seen unprecedented challenges in NSW and small businesses have been greatly impacted. The festival themes include how to manage disruption, future planning, getting your business online, as well as learning all the latest marketing and social media tips. “It is also about recognising the 785,000 small to medium-sized businesses that represent 41 per cent of the state’s private sector workforce that drive our economy.”

Minister for Local Government Shelley Hancock urged councils and local chambers of commerce across the state to apply for the grants.

“These grants have been designed to enable local councils and local chambers of commerce to run a range of activities that would be both beneficial and supportive to their local small business community,” Mrs. Hancock said.

“The NSW Small Business Month team will contact each local council and chamber of commerce directly to give guidance and support when applying for the grants.”

The Government has made available up to \$640,000 in funding for the grants this year for more than 190 local chambers of commerce and 128 councils in NSW to access and put on events and online activities. Funding will be allocated on a first come first served basis, with applications open until 31 August 2020 or until grant funding is exhausted.

NSW Small Business Month is designed to support small and medium businesses with a wide range of free activities held by both government partners and corporate collaborators. Online activities will be available through webinars, podcasts and other virtual platforms.

For more information on the grant application process, visit the NSW Small Business Month website businessmonth.nsw.gov.au or contact the team at smallbusiness.month@treasury.nsw.gov.au or (02) 4908 4886.

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