

Wednesday 10 June 2020

## **COUNCIL SUPPORTS LOCAL BUSINESSES WITH FURTHER FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

A week after the City of Ryde implemented its Small Business Support Package, Council has entered into its first two agreements to provide assistance to commercial tenants that have suffered a downturn in trade due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

DNK Hair and Eastwood Eyes will receive rental relief as part of their agreements with Council after both businesses had endured a significant reduction in revenue since COVID-19 restrictions were put in place in March this year.

The Small Business Support Package was endorsed by Council at its May ordinary meeting to support local businesses during the COVID-19 outbreak and assist in business recovery during the post-pandemic phase.

As part of the package, Council is negotiating financial assistance support for café and restaurant owners operating from Council premises and other commercial tenants of Council.

These negotiations are being undertaken on a case-by-case basis to develop a tailored solution for each tenant and may include rent waivers, rent deferrals or lease extensions.

Negotiations between Council and other tenants are ongoing, with further agreements expected to be finalised in the coming weeks.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said Council was working hard to finalise agreements with commercial tenants so that they can get the assistance they need.

“It is great news that just after a week after the Small Business Support Package was endorsed by Council we can begin offering financial assistance to the businesses that really need it. This will ensure these businesses can stay open and keep people employed, which is so important at the moment,” Cllr Laxale said.

“With restrictions easing, I would encourage everyone to support all local businesses like DNK Hair and Eastwood Eyes and help them get back on the road to recovery.”

In addition to providing assistance to commercial tenants of Council, the Small Business Support package also waives more than 40 different fees and charges for six months. This includes:

- Waiving outdoor dining fees payable by cafes and restaurants
- Waiving administration fees payable by food premises
- Waiving health inspection, health compliance and fire safety certification fees. The inspections will still be undertaken during this time.

The Small Business Support Package comes after more than 230 eligible businesses received support grants via Council's Eastwood Small Business Hardship Fund.