

Media Release

The Hon Adem Somyurek MLC
Minister for Local Government
Minister for Small Business



Monday, 6 April 2020

WORKING TO PROTECT LOCAL JOBS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES

The Andrews Labor Government has called on Victorian Councils to do their bit during this difficult time and not dismiss or stand down staff.

Earlier this week the Minister for Local Government Adem Somyurek and Minister for Jobs Martin Pakula wrote to Victorian councils advising they must continue to provide critical community functions.

Councils have also been invited to partner with the Labor Government's \$500 million Working for Victoria Fund to help people who have lost their jobs and ensure local services continue to be delivered.

Every level of government in Australia is taking action to protect their communities and Victorian local governments need to do the same.

A wide range of Councils across the state have taken measures over the past week to protect their staff and redouble efforts to support vulnerable community members.

One of the important things Councils can do in responding to coronavirus is not add to the number of Victorians who have lost their job.

Many Councils are doing the right thing by providing assurance employees will be maintained and that essential services will be delivered to community members in need.

The Government is working with Councils, with a specific focus on small rural councils, to consider the implications of coronavirus on their operations including the welfare of staff, compliance with the Act, elections and their meetings

Quotes attributable to Minister for Local Government Adem Somyurek

"Councils have a vital role to play in supporting and protecting local communities during these unprecedented times and dismissing or standing down staff is not consistent with that."

"It is important that Councils do their bit by addressing the implications of coronavirus on their operations and continuing to serve their community."

Quote attributable to Minister for Jobs Martin Pakula

"Through no fault of their own, many people have found themselves out of a job and facing an uncertain future – we are asking all Victorian councils and businesses to do everything they can to preserve jobs wherever possible."