

15 September 2020

**Notice of Motion: Cr Philip Le Liu, Declaring a 'Businesses and Jobs Emergency' within City of Melbourne**

**Motion**

That the Future Melbourne Committee:

1. Declares that the economic impact of the COVID 19 pandemic through the loss of jobs and business activity within the City of Melbourne should be treated as an emergency.
2. Calls on Premier Daniel Andrews and the State Government to make a similar declaration of emergency and request the following urgent action:
  - 2.1. An increase in the financial support to the businesses within City of Melbourne and to include the City of Melbourne postcodes previously excluded (namely, Carlton 3053, Carlton North 3054, Flemington 3031, Kensington 3031, West Melbourne 3003, North Melbourne 3051, Parkville 3052 3050 3010, Port Melbourne 3207, East Melbourne 3002, South Yarra 3141) in the next round of support.
  - 2.2. Inclusion of non-employing sole traders within City of Melbourne in next round of support.
  - 2.3. Provision of payroll tax relief when businesses reopen and commence operation in a COVID normal environment.
3. Advocates to the Commonwealth Government the importance of JobKeeper and JobSeeker and that these programs should be continued in Melbourne, the worst affected capital city of Australia, until we are in a COVID normal environment.
4. Advocate to the State and Commonwealth Government the importance of major infrastructure projects as being critical to stimulating Melbourne's economy post COVID -19, with projects such as a tram link to Fishermans Bend, development of the Arden and Macaulay renewal precincts and increased investment in affordable housing.
5. Requests management undertake the following:
  - 5.1. Establish a survey mechanism through Council's website to provide for better understanding of business owner sentiment and evaluation of current business support level to provide to State Government for review and implementation.
  - 5.2. Promote through City of Melbourne's communication channels the business and jobs crisis facing the city and need for increased support and action from State and Commonwealth Governments.

**Background:**

The economic impact of COVID19 on Melbourne is of a magnitude not experienced by other major cities around Australia.

Pre-COVID, the City of Melbourne's economy was worth \$104 billion (Gross Local Product) and the continued viability and success of Melbourne businesses is critical to Victoria, as our economy accounts for one quarter of the overall Victorian economy.

Melbourne's central city economy is usually home to almost 500,000 jobs.

With on-going restrictions to control the pandemic, business operators and workers struggle for survival.

The challenge for Melbourne is nothing like we have seen before and requires all levels of government to treat it a crisis.

Melbourne's successful transition to a COVID normal is crucial to the success of the Victorian and national economies.

This motion calls on the State and Commonwealth Governments to recognise the crisis faced by Melbourne and to introduce additional measures which support a broader range businesses and individuals within our local community.

The motion also advocates the importance of major infrastructure projects as means of stimulating activity within our economy.

**Moved:** Cr Philip Le Liu

**Seconded:** Cr Susan Riley