

5 August 2021

The Hon Gladys Berejiklian MP
NSW Premier
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Premier

URGENT EXPEDITION OF SUPPORT TO NSW BUSINESSES

I write on behalf of Sydney businesses who need government financial support due to the current COVID-19 restrictions fast-tracked.

I have heard from a large number of business owners in the Sydney Electorate who tell me that they are yet to receive financial support and are concerned that their business is facing imminent permanent closure.

Business owners report that they have been forced to spend hours trying to get through to Service NSW at the expense of work. They say it is unclear what support they will receive or when they will receive it, creating significant financial uncertainty. After six weeks of restrictions and no guarantee of when the city can reopen, business owners tell me they are at the point where they have to decide whether to permanently close to avoid further loss and financial ruin.

New South Wales, and particularly Sydney, has been failed by the federal government's decision not to reactivate JobKeeper payments, which provided business owners and employees with clear, easily accessible and responsive support. In contrast, current supports are confusing and leave many businesses owners and employees in limbo while they await responses from Service NSW.

Sydney is a driving force of the wider New South Wales and Australian economy and we cannot let small businesses across the city collapse. Urgent action is needed to address the significant administrative delays in accessing financial support.

Could you please urgently fast-track NSW Government business support grants, provide clear timeframes for grant approvals so that businesses can make informed decisions, and continue advocating for the reintroduction of JobKeeper payments in lockdown affected areas?

Yours sincerely



Alex Greenwich
Member for Sydney

Cc: NSW Treasurer, Minister for Customer Service, Minister for Finance and Small Business

