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During these unprecedented times the Kingaroy Chamber of Commerce urges our business community to seek as much assistance as they possibly can.

The government has a multitude of packages available for business, and the best way to see if you are eligible for any of this funding is to contact your preferred accountant.

Your financial institution is ready to assist you in anyway they can. It is urged that you contact them as soon as you possibly can to make alternate arrangements during this time of uncertainty. The ABA has announced that there is the ability to defer loan repayments for 6 months amid the CARONAVIRUS CRISIS.

We urge those businesses who may be carrying a tax debt to contact the ATO to make arrangements.

Get your online presence in order. If your business has the opportunity to trade digitally, implement these systems as soon as you can or access the professional help necessary to do so. It is important to keep promoting your products and services during this time as the public will be wanting to help business however they can.

Staff of businesses affected by coronavirus who may have hours cut are encouraged to contact Centrelink by phone or go online to check for eligibility for government assistance. This also includes sole traders who may find themselves in this position.

Implement good hygiene practices for customers and staff. You can undertake a 30 minute COVID-19 infection control training online.

If you feel as though you are struggling during this time, don't be too proud. Access the help available. Talk to someone because that someone may just have the answer you need.

Most importantly, SHOP LOCAL PLEASE! Support small businesses that are trading. Take the time to go to those stores in the CBD's throughout the South Burnett. They are relying on you more than ever.

We understand that our country has not seen an event like this in most of our lifetimes. Stay calm. Our country will not run out of food or products. Together, as an entire community, we will get through these tough times. Look out for one another and help each other. We must band together as one strong community. We have done it through floods, droughts and recessions, and we can conquer this hurdle as well.

Damien Martoo
President
Kingaroy Chamber of Commerce