As the weather warms up, we’re helping councils, public space managers, small business owners and the community with our COVID Safe Summer Guide. We can all help to keep public spaces open and accessible by working together to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Please stay safe and visit the NSW Government website for the latest information on COVID-19.

In addition to the resources available on the NSW Government’s COVID-19 website, we have collected insights and links to resources to support public space managers to keep the community safe during the pandemic.
Advice for NSW National Parks

Using green space is important for our wellbeing. Most National Parks are open and will welcome visitors. Encourage people to check the status of their destination before setting out and avoid popular areas close to major population centres.

If people encounter a busy area, they should move along and find more secluded spot. The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service will monitor popular areas. If physical distancing and COVID Safe practices are being jeopardised, areas will be closed to public access. Please check nswparks.info/covid19 for COVID-19 restrictions.

If camping this summer, it’s important to know all NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service campgrounds require a booking and visitors only arrive with the number of people booked and practice COVID-safe camping. All National Park campgrounds are now bookable online at www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/camping-and-accommodation. Many campgrounds are expected to reach COVID-safe capacity this summer, especially on weekends and during school holidays. Travel outside the most popular times if you can. Campground bookings are key to manage crowding and enable contact tracing should an outbreak occur. NSW National Parks with NSW Police will patrol campgrounds. If you see unsafe behaviour, report it via the NSW Police Assistance Line on 131 444.

Useful resources for place managers

- The NSW Government’s primary portal to keep up to date and access resources
- NSW Health’s up-to-date information on cleaning and disinfection, as well as movement and gathering, under the Public Health Orders
- The Office of Sport’s links to guidance for their sector, including for community sport
- The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment’s updated information for NSW Government-managed public open space and parklands
- Office of Local Government’s Playgrounds advice
Advice for beaches and foreshores

The community's safety is our top priority when they visit our beaches and foreshores. Please remind people to always keep 1.5 metres, or about a towel-length, apart from others and to not gather in groups of more than 20 in line with the Public Health Orders (September 2020).

A message from Waverley Council

If we follow the current Public Health Orders, we can all enjoy a great day at the beach. This won’t be a normal summer, so if our beaches and parks look busy, please come back another time. Use that time to visit one of our wonderful local businesses - they need your support!

There’s also many other things to see and do in Waverley, so from all of us here, please, help us help you stay safe!

Matt du Plessis,
Manager, Lifeguard Services and Beach Safety, Waverley Council

Useful resources for place managers

- The NSW Government’s primary portal to keep up to date and access resources
- The NSW Government’s COVID website, including information about public gatherings
- Surf Life Saving NSW’s resources for clubs on COVID Safe plans
- Water Safety NSW’s general tips on safety at lakes, dams, lagoons, channels and creeks
- Local Government NSW’s water safety practice note, including signage considerations
- Transport for NSW’s resources and employers’ support to develop COVID Safe Travel Choices, including communication material, checklists and travel guide templates
- Transport for NSW resources and guidance for boating and onshore activities
Advice on the planning process

Did you know local businesses may be able to carry out some activities and low impact work to support your business without having to lodge a development application? This is known as exempt or complying development under the State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008 (Codes SEPP). Provided the proposal complies with all the relevant development standards, no further planning approval may be needed.

The types of things that qualify as Exempt or Complying Development include:

- Outdoor and footpath dining for cafes and restaurants
- Operating mobile food and drinks outlets such as food trucks and carts
- Advertising and signage to promote your business or event
- Tents, marquees and booths up to 300m² for community events
- Stages and platforms up to 50 m² for community events
- Change of use - Businesses can use the exempt and complying development provisions to adapt. In certain circumstances, some premises can change from one use to another without going through a full development application process, when the relevant development standards are met.
Insights from Transport for NSW

Transport for NSW will contribute to a COVID-Safe summer by helping people move safely to jobs, recreational activities and public spaces across NSW. It is helpful to be aware of how these initiatives can assist local communities to travel safely. Transport for NSW will manage the road network and public transport to ease congestion.

From left: St James Station entrance; Central Park, Chippendale. Images: Damien Carroll

1. Public transport

- Extra services help customers make smart travel choices and practice physical distancing
- Additional staff help customers practice physical distancing and stay safe
- Physical distancing dots on public transport signify the safest places to sit or stand
- Intense and ongoing cleaning across the public transport network

2. Walking and cycling

- Transport for NSW, in partnership with councils, introduced more than 20 kilometres of pop-up cycleways across Sydney to provide more travel options. More pop-up cycleways will be rolled out in outer metropolitan and regional areas, including Newcastle, Wollongong and Goulburn, in the coming months.
- Speed limits have been lowered at 12 busy locations across Sydney to provide a safer environment for pedestrians and cyclists.
Useful resources for place managers

- The NSW Government’s primary portal to keep up to date and access resources
- Support the Go Local campaign and alternatives
- Buy local and support small businesses. The NSW Government’s Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) and Regional Procurement Policy
- Baltimore’s guide for distance design concepts to help restaurants and retailers activate public spaces in a pandemic

- Local procurement: A guide to doing business with local councils
- Transport for NSW’s resource supporting the rapid rollout of temporary or tactical interventions proposed by councils, communities or government agencies.
- Work Safe Australia’s guidance and tools form the basis of their management of health and safety risks posed by COVID including information on volunteers and COVID

ChillOUT Hubs: Smart Open-Air Community Spaces
Image: Georges River Council
Useful resources for place managers to support small business

- Encourage all businesses to complete a COVID-19 Safety Plan and register as a COVID Safe business via the NSW Government’s COVID-19 Safety Plan guidance.

- Businesses can download COVID-19 Safety plans for their industry or check the plans they already have in place meet all NSW Government requirements. Once a plan is in place, businesses can register as COVID Safe and access a digital COVID Safe badge, downloadable posters on safety and hygiene.

- The Small Business Commission’s range of resources include links to a business concierge to help business impacted by the NSW bushfires and/or COVID-19.

Further information on Government support and related information:

- You can also call the Codes Hotline on 1300 305 695 or email at codes@planning.nsw.gov.au

- Visit the NSW Planning Portal for information on requirements for exempt or complying development

- For outdoor dining, the Small Business Commissioner and Service NSW’s resources

- The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment’s guide to the planning system and other approvals such as trading hour extensions and liquor licences

- NSW Health’s Disinfection standards as recommended for hotels
Advice on creative industries

To support independent artists and small to medium arts, screen and cultural organisations impacted by COVID-19, Create NSW is implementing a number of measures. It is useful for place managers to be aware of opportunities for their local community. This includes new support for creatives to engage with online platforms, and audience engagement and skill-sharing for arts, screen and cultural organisations and individuals across the State.

Create NSW is producing a range of webinars designed to explain digital platforms for performances, exhibitions and event presentations, explain digital meeting and information platforms, and help organisations with options to diversify your business and develop new tools to grow during in this challenging new environment.

Go to the Create Connects webinar series.
Go to the Screen NSW webinar series.

Useful resources for place managers

• The NSW Government’s primary portal to keep up to date and access resources
• Office of Local Government provides an engagement guide for councils and examples of social media tiles displaying what’s permitted
• Destination NSW’s details for specific industries and COVID-safe business planning
• Destination NSW’s insights for event and tourism operators
• Create NSW’s webinars and links to resources
• NSW Health’s information about seeking exemptions for large gatherings
• Major Recreation Facilities require a COVID Safe Plan

Camden Museum
Image: Destination NSW