

8th February 2021

Members of the State Transition Committee

- Hon Steven Marshall MP, Premier of South Australia
- Hon. Stephen Wade MLC, Minister for Health and Wellbeing
- Jim McDowell, Chief Executive, Department of Premier and Cabinet
- Dr. Chris McGowan, Chief Executive, Department of Health and Wellbeing
- Commissioner Grant Stevens, State Emergency Coordinator
- Professor Nicola Spurrier, SA Health's Chief Public Health Officer

Open Letter to the Transition Committee and state Members of Parliament

We need YOUR HELP, to HELP our LOCAL BUSINESSES

Re: 2m2 Restriction

The Gawler Business Development Group comprises of more than 500 businesses across a wide range of industry sectors. One of the main purposes of the group is to represent the members on issues which do have, or may, have a negative impact on their business.

It is a concern that more than 20% of our businesses are still struggling due to current COVID restrictions.

We write to you on this occasion seeking consideration of the removal of the 2m2 restrictions for all hospitality and entertainment venues.

The 2m2 restriction continues to severely hamper and affect the livelihood of hospitality and entertainment providers across the Gawler region. Local cafes, hotels and restaurants are still operating at more than 20 - 30% reduced capacity and the cinema often at less than 75% and this cannot be sustained.

Discussions with similar Business Support Groups confirm that this is the case across South Australia and the restriction **MUST BE REVIEWED** as a matter of urgency.

Our businesses are not a 'faceless statistic' in a data report. Mostly, they are family owned and operated, franchises, or part of state and national companies, who are all committed local employers and contributors to supporting the local supply chain, as well as investors in our wider community by supporting local sporting, cultural and service groups, and more, through sponsorships and donations.

With the withdrawal of JobKeeper only weeks away, creating another financial impact on those businesses still receiving it, all impediments and restrictions affecting business need to be reviewed as a matter of priority.

We urgently need our local cafes, restaurants, hotels, service groups and charities providing food, back to operating at full capacity.

We need them back to:

- employing more local people,
- to getting their week's takings back in the 'black',
- supporting their local community,
- investing in their business,
- looking forward to a brighter future.

Most of our small businesses have managed to stay afloat in an ever-changing environment, whilst all the time complying with government restrictions and requirements and will continue to comply with these. However, many are concerned that they will not recover adequately enough to continue or return to pre-COVID levels.

We understand public health is of paramount importance. Our businesses are happy to explore other ways of safeguarding the health of their staff and customers. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss with SA Health other measures which may be equally effective in preventing the transmission of the COVID 19 virus.

Should you wish further information on any of the concerns raised above, please do not hesitate to contact me.

For the sake of South Australia, all of its businesses and residents, we must all work together to keep our community safe and our businesses 'in business'.

We thank you for considering the concerns raised by our member businesses.

Yours Faithfully,



Caren Brougham
Executive Officer

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For and on behalf of the Members of the Gawler Business Development Group