



Treasurer of Victoria

Minister for Economic Development
Minister for Industrial Relations

1 Treasury Place
GPO Box 4379
Melbourne Victoria 3001
Telephone: +61 3 7005 9474
DX 210759

Rocky Bruzzano
CFO
Exponet
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr Bruzzano,

CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC — SUPPORTING VICTORIAN BUSINESSES

Thank you for your correspondence regarding Government support for Exponet to Minister Martin Pakula, which has been forwarded to me for consideration as it falls within my portfolio responsibilities. I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

Like much of the world, Victoria is currently facing an unprecedented situation due to the coronavirus pandemic. The Government has taken strong measures to slow the spread of coronavirus and save lives. Thanks to the efforts of businesses and the community, we have been able to take cautious and careful steps towards a new COVID Normal. The Government is determined to help Victorian businesses, households and workers get through to the other side of this crisis.

I recognise that this must be an extremely difficult time for you and your business. I thank you for your efforts to continue your business and keep people in work.

The Government invested more than \$13 billion to respond to the global pandemic through 2020. This provides unprecedented support to households and businesses to make sure they see it to the other side and support our health response. The Government committed further support in the *2020-21 Budget* to assist businesses in the recovery.

On 5 May 2020, the Government announced payroll tax and WorkCover premium exemptions for fortnightly JobKeeper payments to employees who have been stood down, and any payments above an employee's usual salary (due to the JobKeeper program requiring a minimum fortnightly payment). These exemptions continue to apply for the duration of the JobKeeper program, which will now operate until 28 March 2021. I understand from your letter that Exponet is benefiting from these exemptions.

On 13 September 2020, the Government announced the \$3 billion Business Survival and Adaptation Package. This builds on the Economic Survival Package first announced in March, and including new initiatives announced in the *2020-21 Budget* takes the Government's total direct support to businesses and workers to over \$7.6 billion since the onset of the coronavirus pandemic.

To provide a much needed cashflow boost for businesses, the Government has provided the option to defer payroll tax for the full 2020-21 financial year for businesses with Victorian payrolls up to \$10 million during the 2019-20 financial year. This is addition to earlier relief which provided payroll tax refunds and waivers for the 2019-20 financial year for businesses with payrolls less than \$3 million.

The *2020-21 Budget* includes \$1.5 billion in new tax relief for Victorian workers, businesses and households to help them through the pandemic and recovery.

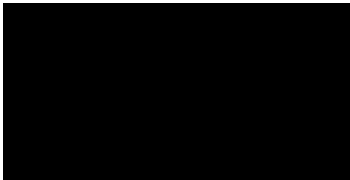
As part of the Budget, the Government is introducing the *New Jobs Tax Credit* to encourage small and medium businesses to re-hire staff, restore staff hours or create new jobs as they recover from the effects of the coronavirus pandemic. These businesses will get a payroll tax credit of ten cents for every dollar it increases taxable Victorian wages.

For further information and advice I encourage you to visit <https://www.business.vic.gov.au/> for how to apply for the various business support programs and <sro.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-payroll-tax-relief> for information on tax relief.

In light of this significant support already offered to businesses in Victoria, your request cannot be supported at this time.

The Victorian Government will continue to work closely with the business sector, the community and the Commonwealth Government throughout this pandemic.

I trust that this information is of assistance and thank you for raising your concerns to my attention.



TIM PALLAS MP
Treasurer

19/01/2021