

Australian Taxation Office (ATO)

The ATO will provide administrative relief for certain tax obligations (similar to relief provided following the bushfires) for taxpayers affected by the Coronavirus outbreak, on a case-by-case basis.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The ATO will not apply the following relief options automatically, so taxpayers will need to contact the ATO (or have their tax agent contact the ATO) to discuss them.

Options available to assist businesses impacted by COVID-19 include:

Type of Support	Details
Deferral of payments	Deferring by up to six months the payment date of amounts due through Business Activity Statements (including PAYG Instalments), Income Tax Assessments, Fringe Benefits Tax Assessment and Excise payments.
Reporting Cycle	<p>Temporary changes in reporting cycle from quarterly to monthly could enable taxpayers to get quicker access to GST refunds they are entitled to. Taxpayers may currently be reporting quarterly if their GST turnover is less than \$20 million. However before considering a change, taxpayers need to be aware that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • changes occur from the start of a quarter, so a change now will take effect from 1 April 2020; • changing their GST reporting cycle doesn't mean a taxpayer has to change their PAYG withholding reporting cycle – this can be managed by specifying the cycles to be changed; • taxpayers must keep reporting monthly for 12 months before they can elect to revert to quarterly reporting; and • if registered for fuel tax credits, taxpayers will also need to claim their fuel tax credits monthly.
Variation of PAYG Instalments	Allowing business to vary PAYGI (to zero if required) for the March 2020 quarter and claim credits for the September 2019 and December 2019 quarters.
Remission of GIC and penalties	Remission of any interest and penalties incurred on or after 23 January 2020
Low interest payment plans	Ability to enter into low interest payment plans.

<https://www.ato.gov.au/Individuals/Dealing-with-disasters/In-detail/Specific-disasters/COVID-19/#Supportavailable>

