

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2020

## **Whipstick Ward candidate calls for improved business support**

Whipstick Ward candidate Dave Fagg, along with a local trader in Eaglehawk, has called on council to do more to support the business sector during the Covid-19 crisis.

Mr Fagg suggested that there was room in the budget for refunds of some fees, as well as partial rates waivers, in order to support businesses over the coming 12 months.

“I would like to see refunds of smaller fees paid in the 2019-2020 financial year, such as those for outdoor dining and A-frames. In addition, council could apply a partial waiver of rates for 2020-2021 for businesses who have registered with JobKeeper.”

He also advocated for council tenders to give stronger weighting to local businesses.

“Currently the weighting is 15% in favour of local tender applications, but this needs to be higher, especially at this time.”

Michele Andrea from Eaglehawk business Let's Get Saucy supported Mr. Fagg's comments, and was also critical of the how the council was alerting businesses to its support strategies, saying that the council's website did not clearly show what support was available.

“I did have a look at council's website, to find ways my business could get some support, but I found the website very difficult to navigate. I know that council wants to support business, but they need to communicate this better.”

Mr Fagg suggested a stand-alone Covid-19 website which contains information on council support for businesses in an easy to navigate format.

#ends#

Mr Fagg is available for media interviews and photo opportunities upon request.

**Contact details:**

Dave Fagg

Phone: 0421 764 699

Email: [dffagg@gmail.com](mailto:dffagg@gmail.com)

Facebook: [facebook.com / davefaggcouncil](https://www.facebook.com/davefaggcouncil)

Website: [davefagg.com.au](http://davefagg.com.au)