



The Hon. Stuart Ayres MP

Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism
and Western Sydney

Ref: DMOC21/181

Ms Karen Sainsbury
NSW Councillor Professional Conference Organisers Association
Managing Director Cornerstone Events

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Dear Ms Sainsbury,

Thank you for your correspondence of 17 August 2021 regarding support for the business events sector.

I am saddened about the devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the business events sector, which has been exacerbated further by the current lockdown and restrictions across NSW. I know this is affecting event organisers, venues, suppliers, exhibitors and so many other businesses.

The NSW Government acknowledges the importance of this sector to the visitor economy and to the broader NSW economy. This is why we announced a \$5.5 million Business Events Industry Support Package in March 2021. The package included \$4 million for the Kickstart 2021 Sydney Business Events Fund to boost business confidence in Greater Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong, and \$1.5 million for regional conferencing. While the Kickstart 2021 Sydney Business Events Fund has closed, the NSW Regional Business Event Development Fund is planned to reopen in the near future. Information will be available at meetinnsw.com.au/business-event-development-fund.

The NSW Government is also delivering a comprehensive economic support package, the COVID-19 Fighting Fund, to help businesses and individuals right across the state, through dedicated business grants, JobSaver payments, payroll tax waivers, land tax reliefs and other support initiatives. Further information about support is available at www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/2021-covid-19-support-package. The NSW Government is currently considering a range of ways it can support the recovery visitor economy.

Thank you for taking the time to keep me abreast of the challenges facing the NSW business events industry. I am grateful for your continued support and advocacy. I trust the above is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

The Hon. Stuart Ayres MP
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