



The Hon Josh Frydenberg MP
Treasurer
Parliament House
Via email: josh.frydenberg@treasury.gov.au

Dear Treasurer

It is with some concern that I write to you regarding the very significant economic impact on jurisdictions currently not subject to lockdown orders and associated hotspot declaration by the Commonwealth during the current Covid-19 pandemic.

The recent lockdown restrictions imposed on parts of greater Sydney have had a devastating impact on a significant section of the ACT business community. In addition to the impact on my local business community, I have received numerous representations from those on Norfolk Island expressing disbelief that assistance is only considered necessary for those businesses on the mainland, while those on Island are considered 'out of sight and out of mind'.

Locally, I have been advised of losses totalling into the millions of dollars, especially in the local tourism, hospitality and aviation industries. As they have highlighted to me, it is their sectors that have been unfairly carrying the burden locally of the Sydney shutdowns.

With these serious concerns in mind, and while the health crisis deepens, I raise the need for government to again consider the reintroduction of a JobKeeper type payment to assist all within our local community carrying the bulk of the burden of the Sydney shutdowns. Let's not forget that JobKeeper protected people's jobs and livelihoods.

These issues mirror the concerns of my constituents and our fellow Australian's on Norfolk Island. With their economy almost entirely dependent on tourism, islanders are feeling abandoned by the Australian government to an uncertain future. With the suspension of the Norfolk Island Regional Council, there is limited access to any form of democratic representation. Consequently, I believe it necessary that I raise their concerns directly with you. Their current situation compounds their economic isolation.

In principle, my concern is centred on the federal government's hotspot declarations and associated disaster payment policy. Nowhere in that policy does it take into consideration the complexities associated with, for example, the relationship between the economies of the Australian Capital Territory and New South Wales, coupled with real economic challenges of the broader Capital Region.

I would urge the government to review its current level of economic support, toward a focus on supporting those beyond so called hotspot areas, and in a manner that supports their jobs and their ties to their local community.

Your sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with some loops and flourishes.

David Smith MP
Federal Member for Bean
26 July 2021