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BUSINESS NSW

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NSW BUSINESSES CAN SEE THE WAY OUT

Three quarters of NSW business owners believe their operations will survive the COVID-19 crisis, according to a flash poll conducted by the state's peak business organisation, *Business NSW.*

The survey was conducted as part of a **Tele Town Hall** event involving NSW Treasurer Dominic Perrottet, which had more than 3000 businesses on the line from across NSW.

Asked whether they believe that their business would survive the current crisis, 72 per cent of respondents answered yes, while another 23 per cent said they were unsure. Just 5 per cent believed their business would be forced to close.

"These are very high numbers considering the impact the virus and the restrictions have had on businesses of all types and in all locations" said **Business NSW** Chief Executive Stephen Cartwright.

"The optimism and 'can do' attitude of business owners and their employees has never surprised me; however, this has been the ultimate test of their endurance and perseverance," Mr Cartwright said.

"NSW is the engine room of the national economy and with the swift support of the Federal and State Governments many businesses believe that they will survive, which is great news.

"The Treasurer too was heartened by these figures, and by the grit and resilience being shown by the business operators on the call – their determination to continue operations, paying their staff and supporting their communities was there for all to hear and see.

"Of course, the big challenge for businesses will be in coming months when our way of life slowly starts to return to a new normal and the harsh reality of their true financial position becomes clear after government subsidies end for them and for their customers.

"That's why it is so important for everyone to continue to follow the directions of Government health authorities and obey the restrictions in place.

"Business owners fully appreciate that the best way for them to return to normal, or in fact, the new normal, is by flattening, and then wiping out the curve.

"**Business NSW** has advocated for business owners and their staff to immediately download the *COVIDSafe* App and to then push for a staged re-opening of regional towns with no cases of the virus, which would allow businesses in those towns to start trading again sooner and provide much needed employment for these hard hit regional areas" Mr Cartwright said.

About Business NSW

Formerly the NSW Business Chamber, *Business NSW* is the peak policy and advocacy body which has been representing businesses in NSW since 1826.

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