



COVID-19

Frequently Asked Questions

Maritime assistance package for small business

To further assist business during the current crisis, a special package has been developed targeting small businesses operating from the Department of Transport's (DoT) 30 harbours and maritime facilities

Who will benefit from the package?

There will be rent relief for six months for about 300 eligible small businesses with a current lease with DoT for premises at one of its maritime facilities. Additionally, at DoT facilities, fees for tourism charter and fishing industry pen and mooring holders will be waived for one year.

Are these measures immediate?

The rent relief applies from 1 April 2020, while pen and mooring relief flows from your vessel accommodation anniversary which is detailed below.

How do I know if I am an eligible lessee to receive the six-month rent relief at a DoT facility?

You must be either a small business as defined by the [Small Business Development Corporation Act 1983](#) or a not-for profit group, including all charities and associations defined by the [Associations Incorporation Act 2015](#)

What payments qualify to be included in the rent relief?

All land, seabed, and building leases and licences, harbour area contributions, berthage at Barrack Square and Port administration and road contributions at Wyndham.

What payments are not included in the rent relief?

Management fees, power and water charges, road and drainage fees, environment monitoring fees and fuel and rock turnover payments are not included, and you will be invoiced as usual.

When will the rent relief start and how do I get more information?

The rent relief package applies from 1 April 2020. All lessees will be contacted by DoT with further information about eligibility and a form to be completed and returned.

Are pen and mooring fees at DoT facilities being waived for one year?

Yes, but the assistance only applies to small businesses with tourism charter or fishing vessels penned or moored at a DoT managed maritime facility.

I own a recreational vessel and have a pen at a DoT managed maritime facility, will my fees be waived?

No. Only small businesses with tourism charter or fishing vessels penned or moored at a DoT managed maritime facility will have their vessel accommodation fees waived for one year.

I own a tourism charter vessel and have a pen outside the metropolitan area at Batavia Coast Marina, Geraldton. Will my fees be waived?

Yes, accommodation fees for small businesses with tourism charter or fishing vessels penned or moored will be waived for one year at any of the DoT managed maritime facilities along the WA coast.

Do I need to apply to have my fees waived for one year?

You can expect to receive further information from DoT shortly if you are a pen or mooring holder with a small business in the tourism charter or fishing industry.

I have already paid my annual fees for vessel accommodation. Will I get a refund?

No. Your fees will be waived on your next anniversary date. For example, if your annual pen fee was paid in September 2019, your anniversary date is September 2020 and this is when your fees will be waived. This means you will not pay your annual fee until September 2021.

I pay annual fees for a pen at a DoT managed facility and I also pay casual fees at other DoT managed facilities throughout the year. Will my casual fees also be waived?

Yes. DoT will waive casual fees for tourism charter and fishing industry customers based on vessel accommodation use in the previous year.

I am involved in the tourism charter and fishing industry and I am a casual pen holder at a DoT managed facility. Will my vessel accommodation fees be waived?

Yes. Fees will be capped to the payment you have made for your vessel accommodation in the previous year. Contact the facility manager to confirm your entitlement.

Do I need to make arrangements with facility management if I want to work out of another facility on a casual basis like I have done in previous years?

Yes. The process for entering other facilities remains the same. You are required to contact the facility manager and arrange approval.

Can I use a different maritime facility and retain the benefit?

Yes. Requests for vessel accommodation outside of your usual arrangements can be considered but you may incur additional costs.

Am I allowed to travel across regions for work purposes?

Yes. Masters and crew of commercial vessels engaged in fishing or charter operations are considered essential travellers and can move between regions in WA if they carry the correct documentation.

To show you are exempt, you must carry an official letter from your employer stating that you are employed on a vessel providing essential service to the transport, freight and logistics maritime industry.

DoT requires vessel masters travelling outside their region to contact the manager of the maritime facility they are visiting in advance of their arrival at the facility.

Vessel masters will need to provide the appropriate documentation to DoT before approval is given to enter the facility. If a commercial vessel does not provide the appropriate documentation and enters the facility without permission, the Police will be contacted.