



What is the Sydney Light Rail Small Business Assistance Program?

The Small Business Assistance Program assists small businesses on the light rail alignment who believe they have been impacted where construction is taking longer than initially advised.

In the longer term, the delivery and operation of light rail will increase business opportunities along the alignment so any payment under this program is not designed to compensate businesses, but to provide targeted assistance for short term adverse impacts. This assistance is provided on an ex-gratia basis.

Reasonable accountant costs incurred in connection with an application will be reimbursed.

The program is targeting small business owners along the light rail alignment, rather than land owners who are set to benefit from significant property value uplift.

How do I apply?

To apply for assistance, businesses will need to meet the following criteria:

- › Small businesses employing fewer than 50 full-time equivalent employees;
- › The place of business is situated along the alignment or in close proximity to and impacted by construction activity;
- › The place of business is located in a zone where construction is taking longer than initially advised

Owners of small businesses who occupy their own premises (owner-occupiers) are also encouraged to apply.

In order to be assessed, businesses that meet the above criteria need to provide:

- › Signed financial statements prior to the beginning of Light Rail construction, and for the period since construction began; and
- › Any additional information requested by Transport for NSW that shows how the Light Rail construction has impacted the business.

How long will the program run for?

- › The Business Assistance Program will be available for the duration of civil construction.

How long will it take?

- › Applications are assessed as quickly as possible, once all financial statements and any additional information required has been provided to Transport for NSW. On average, applications are determined within less than four weeks after all information has been received.

Supporting small business is a priority as we want to ensure that the small businesses that have experienced disruption get to experience the benefits once light rail services start.

We've understood that some small businesses along the Sydney light rail route have experienced a greater length of disruption than they may have originally planned.

That's why we are taking action to assist these small businesses that may be experiencing financial hardship.

The Assistance Program includes an ex-gratia payment to assist businesses with their rent and other bills for eligible small businesses that are directly facing the light rail alignment.

Who can I contact for more information?

Please call **0477 477 776** or email **SLRBizassistance@transport.nsw.gov.au** if you have any questions.