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## New challenges identified as Omicron takes hold



Kia ora tatou,

There are some new challenges affecting members as Omicron tightens its grip, in addition to the ongoing issues already highlighted such as financial sustainability, the shortage of labour, reduced operational capacity and problems with the supply chain. Staff unavailability (isolating) and inflationary/cost pressures can now be added to the list of common obstacles that members are having to deal with on a daily basis.

In our recent Member Resilience Survey, 86% of respondents noted major concerns regarding the effects of COVID-19 on their business, with the availability and use of Rapid Antigen Self-testing, additional Government financial support, staff recruitment and business strategy and planning being some of the areas highlighted where businesses urgently need support.

Business North Harbour (BNH) would like to thank the hundreds of members who responded to the survey. On your behalf we will continue to advocate to Ministers and our local MPs, highlighting the issues and asking for their support in lobbying the Government to take action to provide the necessary assistance our members need to get through these difficult times. These letters to Hon Grant Robertson, Hon Stuart Nash, Hon Chris Hipkins, Vanushi Walters MP for Upper Harbour and Erica Stanford MP for East Coast Bays are all available to view under 'Submissions 2022' [here](#).

In addition, BNH will programme some online webinars engaging subject-matter experts to offer support in the most relevant areas based upon the feedback received.

Ngā mihi mahana,

**Kevin O'Leary**

General Manager, Business North Harbour

## Accessing Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs)



Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) have been cleared for sale to all organisations and businesses, and from March will be available to the general public. These RATs won't come from the Ministry of Health's central supply for the public health response, instead businesses and other organisations will need to source them independently. Global supply constraints mean these RATs may not immediately be available on retail shelves. RATs will still be available for free as part of the public health response, including if you are symptomatic, isolating, or part of the close contact exemption scheme. Read more [here](#).

## Latest COVID information from business.govt.nz



The following links from [business.govt.nz](#) and other Government sources provide the latest COVID related information on;

- [COVID-19 Response Update](#)
- [New financial support for businesses affected by Omicron](#)
- [Further MSD support available during Omicron](#)
- [Managing the impact of COVID-19 cases at your business](#)
- [Testing positive for COVID-19](#)
- [Testing and returning to work during Omicron](#)

Got questions or need support? Call the free COVID-19 Business Helpline on 0800 500 362.



## Inorganic Office Collection - 24th & 25th March

24TH & 25TH MARCH 2022  
INORGANIC COLLECTION  
REUSABLES // E-WASTE // GENERAL INORGANIC



Help reduce landfill,  
protect the environment  
and save money!

Only  
**\$49** plus GST  
per m<sup>3</sup>  
collected  
\* Minimum charge of  
\$49 plus GST applies

Business  
North  
Harbour

BUSINESSNH.ORG.NZ/INORGANICCOLLECTION

BNH's next Office Inorganic Collection is taking place on Thursday 24th and Friday 25th March. This is the perfect opportunity to clear out your old office furniture, e-waste and other items cluttering up valuable workspace. Register [here](https://businessnh.org.nz/inorganiccollection).

### BNH COVID-19 Response Policy

**Business  
North  
Harbour**

**CONNECT  
COMMUNICATE  
COLLABORATE**

At Business North Harbour the health and safety of our staff, visitors and members is a priority. We create opportunities for people to connect, communicate and collaborate with one another. This means that we put on events for our members and at these events we also provide food and drink services which means that the latest mandatory vaccination orders (The COVID-19 Public Health Response (Vaccinations) Order 2021) require all workers at these events to be fully vaccinated. Please click [here](#) to view our BNH COVID-19 Response policy document.

### Support local, have one for hospo!



Imagine if your favourite café, bar or restaurant was no longer there? Because that's the reality of what's happening. We need to do something and now! **Have one for hospo** has been set up to encourage kiwi's to head out to their local and to grab a drink whether it be a refreshing G&T, beer, wine, coffee, juice, whatever you fancy. Let's help our hospo friends, they need us!

It's all about supporting local so let's look at **Douglas Alexander Parade, Airborne Road** and **William Pickering Drive** to start with. Why not try visiting some of our wonderful establishments in this area which include; [Altura Coffee Company](#); [Anise Private Chef & Catering](#); [Atlas Power Coffee](#); [Bar Africa](#); [Caffe Greco](#); [Coffee Cabin](#); [Columbus Coffee William Pickering Drive](#); [Hak Ka Hut](#); [Kaffeine Café & Eatery](#); [Kami Sushi](#); [Katsubi Café and Restaurant](#); [M2café](#); [New Brew Café Bar & Restaurant](#); [No.1 Pancake](#); [Papaya Thai Restaurant Albany](#); [Pita Pit Albany](#); [Subway Rosedale](#); [Dami Sushi](#); [Uncle Chicken](#).

### March FYI Magazine out now



Our March FYI magazine is on its way to you now and is also available to view online [here](#). This edition includes a number of interesting articles including:

- **Cover Story:** Time to reconnect - rebuilding pre-pandemic relationships
- **Local Business Spotlight:** Orca Logistics and Hobby Games
- **Property Matters:** Strong demand in the office market
- **ONE DAY SALE retrospective**

### Foodprint - reduce your food waste & make positive change



**FOODPRINT**

When you partner with **Foodprint**, you're committing to reducing food waste and making positive change. You're also exposing your business to our growing database of customers, building brand awareness and loyalty, and of course making a profit on food that used to be wasted! Whether you own a cafe, restaurant, supermarket, bakery, catering service, hotel, food truck or something we haven't thought of, let's chat and see how Foodprint can work for you. Simply click [here](#) to get started. Partnering with Foodprint is free and easy. We'll help you get set up to ensure the best result for your eatery - and our world.



## Minimum wage to increase from 1st April



The minimum wage is set to increase to \$21.20 per hour from the 1st April 2022. In a press release from Hon Michael Wood he states that "raising the minimum wage will directly benefit approximately 300,000 workers, and will help many households that have been most impacted by the effects of COVID. For someone working a 40-hour week on the minimum wage, this increase will see them earning an extra \$48 a week, and almost \$2,500 more each year." Read more [here](#).

## Auckland Council Annual Budget 2022/23 - have your say!



Consultation on the council's **Annual Budget 2022/2023** is now open and you can have your say until 5.00pm on the 28th March 2022. The public feedback that Auckland Council receives as well as input from Local Boards will help inform decisions before the Governing Body considers the budget for adoption at the end of June.

The council is managing some complex pressures this year. The uncertainty created by COVID-19 and unfavourable shifts in major economic influences will be with us for some time. The ongoing impacts of these pressures are hard to predict, but the key is to have resilience and flexibility in the budget. In addition to the council's response to financial pressures, we know Aucklanders want to see an increased and sped-up response to the climate emergency, so that is also a priority. The key objectives of this year's budget are to achieve (i) faster and further action on climate change, (ii) a resilient and flexible response to immediate budget pressures, and (iii) efficient waste minimisation. For more information, including the supporting information for this consultation document you can:

- Visit [akhaveyoursay.nz/budget](https://akhaveyoursay.nz/budget)
- Phone 09 301 0101
- Visit your service centre or library

**\*\*\* Please note that in the next publication of YOUR news there will be a Business North Harbour Member Survey included where we will also be seeking member feedback.**

## Northern Corridor Improvements Aerial Flyover Comparison - May 2018 / February 2022



Click the image above or [here](#) to watch a short Northern Corridor Improvements aerial flyover video which compares the May 2018 and February 2022 periods.

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