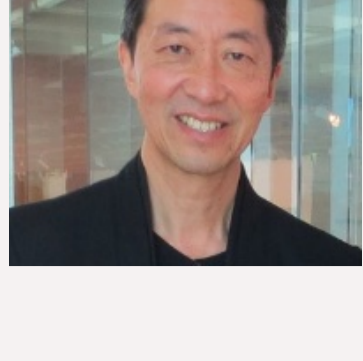


September news

President's Welcome



We are starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel and it looks like the lockdown will be eased during October. We look forward to the international and state borders being open towards the end of the year as businesses in Haymarket do rely on patronage from tourists and international students to contribute to Chinatown's revival.

We wish to continue to draw your attention to various government support programs during the COVID pandemic and we have included the recent Empowering and Supporting Local Communities Grants Program from Multicultural NSW for your information.

Subject to restrictions being sufficiently eased in December, we will be holding our Chinatown End of Year Celebration music and dance performances at Dixon Street with the support of City of Sydney. Further details will be provided at a later date. We hope that we will be catching up with you some time towards the end of the year.

Simon Chan
President

Latest News



George St South Pedestrianisation project

The City of Sydney is extending the pedestrian boulevard of George Street, Sydney from Bathurst Street to Railway Square. The council says George Street south, pedestrianised from Bathurst Street to Rawson Place, will create 9,000m² of additional car-free space in the city centre. The mid-block sections between Bathurst Street and Goulburn Street are now open.

- Intersection works are ongoing at Bathurst Street, Liverpool Street and Goulburn Street, as well as pedestrianisation works at the Chinatown station and blocks south of Goulburn Street (both east and west sides).

Work will predominantly be carried out during the day between 7am and 5pm (Monday to Saturday). Some noise restricted activities will occur between 5pm and 10:30pm but will not be programmed to be continuous. To manage safety requirements, a weekend of continuous works has been scheduled from 8-11 October during the Light Rail operator's programmed maintenance closure.

The estimated construction period for the overall project is March 2021 to Mid 2022. The Chamber will liaise with the Council to explore ways to speed up the construction process.

[Get project updates >>](#)

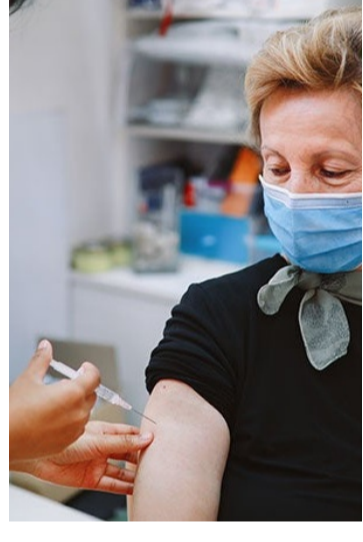
Haymarket to transform into tech hub

Developers and investors are circling Sydney's Haymarket and Central Station precinct for more mixed-use projects for the burgeoning future tech hub, ahead of expected growth after the pandemic.

One of the latest deals gaining attention is the potential to combine two properties in the Haymarket precinct worth about \$350 million, to create a near 80-storey office tower and a potential hotel. These are 757-763 George St, and the adjoining 187 Thomas Street. Leading the tech hub will be the HQ of Australian start-up Atlassian, with a 40-level skyscraper at 8-10 Lee Street in the Central tech precinct.



[Read more >>](#)



COVID-19 vaccination

With the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic still continuing to affect Sydney amid the latest lockdown, the Chamber strongly encourages its members to get vaccinated. The Australian Government has provided some information about vaccination translated into other languages in the below links:

- [English >>](#)
- [Chinese \(Simplified\) >>](#)
- [Chinese \(Traditional\) >>](#)



Multicultural NSW grants program

Multicultural NSW recognises that place-based and community led initiatives are critically important in supporting our most vulnerable communities. They also believe that community organisations and local services are best placed to know what their local communities need.

Local community organisations and groups are now eligible to apply for funding to deliver community-led grassroots projects supporting vulnerable members of our community.

Eligible organisations can apply for funding between \$10,000 and \$30,000 for their projects.

[Apply now >>](#)

New Members



Gavin Stuart
[Bartier Perry](#)

Gavin is head of Sydney CBD-based law firm Bartier Perry's Dispute Resolution & Advisory team and has over 24 years' legal experience focusing on commercial disputes, insolvency, litigation and dispute resolution. His areas of interest include shareholder and partnership matters, disputes involving unlawful online conduct, copyright and confidential information. Recently, property and leasing disputes and consumer law matters have been a large part of Gavin's practice. As a past director and now pro bono adviser to the Community Bank Darling Square, Gavin understands the needs of CBD businesses and is here to help.

Business Tips

Sydney to re-open on 11 October

Stay-at-home orders for adults who have received both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine will be lifted from 11 October after NSW passes the 70% double vaccine target. For venues including hospitality, retail stores and gyms, this means:

- Hospitality venues can reopen subject to 1 person per 4sqm inside and 1 person per 2sqm outside, with standing while drinking permitted outside.
- Retail stores can reopen under the 1 person per 4sqm rule (unvaccinated people will continue to only be able to access [critical retail](#)).
- Personal services such as hairdressers and nail salons can open with 1 person per 4sqm, capped at 5 clients per premises.

[Keep updated so your business is ready >>](#)

Help with workplace laws during COVID-19

The Fair Work Ombudsman (FWO) understands that many businesses are feeling the impacts of COVID-19. The FWO has a range of information and tools to support employers and employees at [coronavirus.fairwork.gov.au](#), including information and guidance on [vaccinations and the workplace](#). You are encouraged to check the site regularly to stay on top of any changes as they occur.

The FWO has also produced [new videos](#) including case study videos to help customers understand the difference between independent contracting and employment, and [two new online courses](#) for franchises.

Operate or work in a retail business? Wage increases under the General Retail Industry Award 2020 came into effect from 1 September 2021. Use the FWO's [Pay and Conditions Tool](#) to calculate the applicable rates.

Government assistance payments to wind down

The federal government's COVID-19 financial support payments are set to be wound back as key vaccination milestones are reached and lockdown restrictions ease in the coming weeks.

The payments are providing a lifeline to individuals and businesses impacted by lockdown restrictions in New South Wales. The economic support will be scaled back when a 70 per cent double dose vaccination threshold is achieved before being ceased when we reach an 80 per cent vaccination rate.

[Changes to COVID-19 Disaster Payment >>](#)

[Changes to COVID-19 business relief >>](#)

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