

# STREET-SIDE DINING

## AN ADJUSTABLE OUTDOOR DINING SUPPORT INITIATIVE



The City of Hobart's place and city shaping work is responding to traders in the city who have requested that we enable an expansion of their outdoor dining areas.

These requests have been in line with the City's policy developed through COVID-19 to improve the trading opportunities in Hobart, and to improve the access and vitality of the streets.

Further to the benefits to business and vitality, the Street-Side Dining project is also addressing the accessibility performance of Hobart's streets, by enabling a continuous-line-of-travel on footpaths along the building line in the location of the participating hospitality traders.

### **What support is the City offering business owners?**

The City is co-producing these new spaces with businesses, assisting them to be responsive and flexible to their changing outdoor dining space needs.

This includes offering a range of support options during the trial, such as:

- Base infrastructure equipment such as planters (and plantings), including delivery and installation, and removal as necessary.

- Traffic engineering and management support, to make sure the proposal is safe and accessible for all people.
- Assistance communicating with neighbours and other key stakeholders about what is being proposed.

The City's involvement has largely been the design, development and installation phase. Traders will assume ongoing management post-installation, though we will assist in watering the urban greening elements.

The City's normal fees for a permit to occupy a public space for outdoor dining will apply, and the use of these areas will be subject to a Public Space By-Law Permit.

### **Creating a vibrant, resilient Hobart**

This project is part of the City's post-COVID response to build the resilience of our local traders and business operators as they work their way through the ongoing impacts of the pandemic. Providing more outdoor seating options broadly benefits local businesses and the city by adding greater vibrancy to our streets and increasing the number of visitors to an area. This project aims to support businesses in the city through the following:

- The development of higher quality amenities for visitors and locals.
- Empowering our business community to improve our public spaces in a collaborative, responsive and equitable way.
- Improving the accessibility of Hobart's footpaths by removing obstructions from the building edge.
- Testing a low-maintenance wicking watering system that could be used elsewhere by the city.

Expanded outdoor dining is a relatively new concept in Hobart, and we appreciate that our local conditions may have an impact on the viability of this type of arrangement.

As this is an adjustable installation that allows for some tweaks to the design, we look forward to working together with businesses to resolve any concerns they may have.

Evidence in other cities shows that this type of public use increases the number of people visiting an area and broadly benefits businesses in the areas where these are installed.

### **What are the next steps?**

The installations will be in place until the end of the autumn season (the end of May 2023), although this may be subject to review and possible extension. Pending the outcomes of the trial, the installations have been scheduled for removal.



These findings will help shape and define the City's outdoor dining program, both retrospectively for those who already have spaces, and to develop consistency and shared understanding in support of future requests.

### **What about equal access provisions?**

- Where they are installed, this project will improve the accessibility of Hobart's footpaths by removing obstructions from the building edge.
- We have worked with our access team to ensure that dedicated accessible seating will be provided as part of the installations.

### **What about parking?**

- The project will require the repurposing of some on-street parking into outdoor dining spaces.
- Neighbouring businesses have been directly approached to determine their support or otherwise for the proposal.
- The majority of those contacted have generally been supportive.
- To accommodate some residual trader concerns and observations, changes have been made to paid parking and loading zone provisions.
- We have ensured that any change to equal access parking, and those near public health facilities have been replaced with 'like for like' provisions.
- The City understands that this initiative may impact the running of some businesses but is confident that the project will bring more life and activity to our city streets.

### **How can other businesses be part of this, or future experiments?**

- For further information please contact: Philip Holliday, Executive Manager City Placemaking, City of Hobart. Email: [coh@hobartcity.com.au](mailto:coh@hobartcity.com.au)
- To keep up to date with City of Hobart initiatives including any future trials of extended outdoor dining please join our business email list: <https://confirmsubscription.com/h/i/02CE1E370334BB0E>

