

Post Exhibition - Outdoor Dining Guidelines, Outdoor Dining Policy Review and Permanent Footpath Extensions

File No: X127800

Summary

Outdoor dining brings vibrancy and improves safety for our high streets and neighbourhoods by supporting local businesses, bringing energy and life to public spaces, and transforming dining and shopping precincts into lively, attractive destinations.

Council promoted outdoor dining on footpaths and on streets as a response to the Covid-19 pandemic, and it has since become an essential part of the City's culture and street life.

This report follows public consultation on new draft Outdoor Dining Guidelines (the Guidelines) that respond to the increased popularity and demand for outdoor dining across our City and that support the NSW Government drive for increased vibrancy.

The draft Guidelines make it easier for food & beverage businesses to operate, make more space for outdoor dining, define and protect an unobstructed continuous accessible path of travel on the footpaths, and encourage plants and greenery in outdoor areas.

More than 150 community members, businesses and organisations made a submission in response to the exhibition. Generally, the response has been strongly supportive of more outdoor dining and making it easier for local businesses. Some submissions raised concern about footpath space and accessibility for pedestrians.

Other concerns included an increase in noise for residents, anti-social behaviour from pub customers, and loss of parking for residents. It is considered that the Guidelines provide adequate responses to all of these issues and there are no significant changes recommended following exhibition.

Minor amendments have been made to amend a figure showing the areas where the City is not the authority for outdoor dining and to update the name of a NSW Government agency.

This report includes an Implementation plan which sets out the approach the City will take to the roll-out of permanent footpath extensions for outdoor dining. These permanent footpath extensions will replace the on-street dining spaces that are currently in former parking spots and protected from traffic by concrete barriers.

Construction of the footpath extensions is planned to commence in March 2027 and will be spread over 8 years.

This report also requests that Council rescind the Outdoor Dining policy following review. The review identified that the Policy serves no practical purpose in the administration of outdoor dining, with all information required by staff, businesses and the community included in the Guidelines.

Any changes to the Guidelines are subject to public exhibition and need to be adopted by Council. This report recommends that Council adopt the Outdoor Dining Guidelines with minor amendments at Attachment B, note the Implementation plan for permanent footpath extensions at Attachment C and rescind the Outdoor Dining policy at Attachment D.

If approved, the Guidelines will come into effect, and the Policy will be rescinded on 1 October 2026. A communication and education campaign will be implemented over the following months.

The City will take an educative approach to the new Guidelines in the initial implementation period up to 1 February 2027, except where enforcement action is required due to significant issues of public safety.

Implementation of the permanent footpath extensions will commence in March 2027 following further engagement with businesses.

Recommendation

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council note the outcomes of engagement on the draft Outdoor Dining Guidelines in the Engagement Report as shown at Attachment A to the subject report
- (B) Council adopt the Outdoor Dining Guidelines as shown at Attachment B to the subject report and as amended
- (C) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to undertake minor editorial amendments prior to publication for clarity or correction of drafting errors and to finalise design, artwork and accessible formats
- (D) Council note the Outdoor Dining - Implementation Plan for permanent footpath extensions as shown at Attachment C to the subject report
- (E) Council rescind the Outdoor Dining Policy as shown at Attachment D to the subject report
- (F) Council note that a communications and education plan, as outlined in the subject report, will be undertaken for the initial implementation period of the new Outdoor Dining Guidelines up to 1 February 2027. In accordance with Council's Compliance Policy, enforcement action will be initially focused on education and voluntary compliance, except where immediate action is required to address significant issues of public safety
- (G) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to amend the Sydney streets code to reflect the dimensions of the continuous accessible clear path of travel adopted in the Outdoor Dining Guidelines as shown at Attachment B to the subject report.

Attachments

- Attachment A.** Engagement report - Draft outdoor dining guidelines
- Attachment B.** Outdoor dining guidelines (as amended following exhibition)
- Attachment C.** Outdoor dining - Implementation plan for permanent footpath extensions
- Attachment D.** Outdoor dining policy - dated November 2022
- Attachment E.** FAQs – Permanent footpath extensions for outdoor dining

Background

1. Outdoor dining has become a popular part of the City's street life and culture and is ideal for our temperate climate. The City promoted outdoor dining as a response to Covid-19 pandemic restrictions, supporting businesses by expanding the available dining area into adjacent car parking space. The City also placed a freeze on fees for outdoor dining applications and footpath rental charges in 2020. This Council has resolved to continue fee-free outdoor dining. The popularity of outdoor dining continues to increase, with more than 1,000 businesses now having outdoor dining compared to around 430 before these measures.
2. In December 2025, Council approved draft Outdoor Dining Guidelines (the Guidelines) for exhibition. The Guidelines reduce requirements for food and drink businesses, simplifying the application process and reducing associated time and costs. Key changes include:
 - rebalancing the minimum clear path of travel widths depending on street type - making it more certain and easier to fit in outdoor dining and maintain a clear path
 - allowing outdoor dining on both sides of a clear path of travel if footpath space permits
 - a more flexible approach to the positioning of clear path of travel between outdoor dining clusters rather than for the whole block
 - conversion of temporary on street dining areas to permanent footpath extensions without concrete barriers
 - permitting additional outdoor dining in front of a neighbouring business following consultation
 - the safe use of large permanent planter boxes and planter pots to green dining areas
 - removing the non-approval of entertainment in outdoor areas
 - permitting standing in an outdoor dining area without a table or shelf
 - simplifying processes including duplicate requests whereby businesses apply for both owners consent and apply for outdoor dining permit from Council, and
 - a streamlined approval modification process, whereby Council can issue a modified approval following consultation with a business to reflect the endorsed updates in the Guidelines.

Outdoor dining policy review

3. The Outdoor Dining Policy, shown at Attachment D, was last reviewed in 2022 and is due for review again by November 2026. Staff have completed the review and recommend that the Policy is no longer needed as it plays no practical role in the administration of outdoor dining. All of the requirements for staff, businesses and the community are now in the Outdoor Dining Guidelines, which are subject to public exhibition and adopted by Council.

4. Council already has the authority to issue approvals for outdoor dining under the Roads Act 1993, the Local Government Act 1993, and Crown Land Management Act 2016. The setting of application fees and footpath rental charges is set by Councils' annual budget process and contained in the City's Revenue Policy (Fees and Charges) published on the City's website. Action for the monitoring and enforcement of compliance with any approvals issued by the City is governed by the City's Compliance Policy and informed by any approval issued under the relevant legislation.
5. There will be no impact on the community from not having the Policy. This report recommends that the Policy be rescinded.

Public exhibition of the draft Guidelines

6. The draft Outdoor Dining Guidelines (draft Guidelines) was exhibited on the Sydney Your Say website from 12 January to 12 March 2026. Engagement activities included:
 - Sydney Your Say webpage with online survey
 - Briefing to the City of Sydney's Inclusion (disability) Advisory Panel
 - Email to 17 disability representative organisations
 - Email to 610 business organisations and businesses with outdoor dining
 - Online business webinar on Wednesday 11 February 2026, 2pm – 3.30pm
 - Promotion in Sydney Your Say e-news and City newsletters, and
 - Social media and media promotion.
7. We received 135 submissions during the consultation period including 88 surveys, 47 emails, and there were an additional 21 comments received at the online business webinar. City staff also briefed the City of Sydney's Inclusion (disability) Advisory Panel. The Sydney Your Say webpage received 2,450 page views, and the outdoor dining guidelines were download 658 times during exhibition.
8. Themes arising from submissions are dealt with in detail at Attachment A, with a summary below. The most common themes were support for making it easier for businesses to operate, and support for increased activation and outdoor dining opportunities. The most common concerns mentioned in relation to the draft Guidelines include reduced footpath space for pedestrians, loss of parking, increased noise for residents, and concerns about footpath accessibility. Other common themes are summarised below, with further detail in Attachment A.
9. There are no significant changes proposed to the draft Guidelines in response to submissions. There are 2 minor changes to update references to Property NSW to Placemaking NSW, and to update the map showing the area where Placemaking NSW is the permitting authority for outdoor dining.

Strong support for more outdoor dining opportunities, increased activation, greening, and making it easier for businesses to operate

10. Overall, there was very strong support for outdoor dining in the City and for the draft Guidelines. Submissions noted that the increase in outdoor dining has improved the character of the City and made our streets safer and more active, and they appreciate the cosmopolitan feel the extra activity and colour bring to our streets. Submissions strongly supported changes that encourage planting and greenery and make the establishment and operation of outdoor dining areas easier for businesses with the draft guidelines seen to provide vital support for local restaurants, cafes and hospitality venues.

Concern about reduced footpath width and walking space

11. The most common concern raised is that the draft Guidelines do not leave a sufficiently wide continuous accessible path of travel (clear path) - the footpath space set aside for pedestrians. Walk Sydney's submission points to the Transport for NSW Walking Space Guide and recommends that the minimum clear path for pedestrians should be 3.4m on all footpaths in the City of Sydney. They recommend that if the City is to make more space for outdoor dining, we should reclaim traffic lanes and parking spaces rather than use footpath space.
12. Other submissions make the more general point that too much footpath space had been given over to businesses at the expense of pedestrians. Submissions mentioned George Street in the city, Regent Street in Redfern and Roslyn Street in Potts Point in particular. Some submissions felt the clear path is already too narrow and that the City should reduce, not increase, outdoor dining opportunities. Other submissions stated the new guidelines struck a balance between dining opportunities and space for pedestrians.

Response

13. The City's existing streets are multipurpose spaces for walking, gathering and social activities including outdoor dining. They are a historical creation, setting out the space between buildings and private landholdings. Where additional activities occur, these can slow pedestrian movement but bring the benefits of social interaction and community building and make our streets into gathering spaces. The draft Guidelines look to strike a balance between encouraging beneficial activity while maintaining enough space for pedestrians. While the draft Guidelines allow a reduced clear path of travel in dining areas, much of the street will have a substantially wider clear path.
14. The City's Inclusive Public Domain Guidelines note a preferred minimum clear path of 1.8m, but where that cannot be met allow for a reduction to 1.2m with regular passing zones. The draft Outdoor Dining Guidelines propose a minimum width of the clear path in dining areas of 1.5m for neighbourhood streets, where more gathering and activity is expected and movement is a lower priority. On these streets, passing zones of 2m width are required every 20m along the footpath to allow for easy passing amongst pedestrians. On main streets such as King Street Newtown or Crown Street Surry Hills, where movement is a higher priority and pedestrian volumes higher, a clear path of travel of 2m is required to allow for that freer pedestrian movement.

15. The 3.4m minimum clear path suggested by Walk Sydney is not practical and would require either the removal of much of our outdoor dining, tree planting and signage or extensive conversion of parking and traffic lanes to footpath. Since 2020 the City has created additional outdoor dining space through upgrades to Crown St and other streets, and through the conversion of parking spaces to temporary on-street dining. The City has more than 160 active sites where parking has been converted to outdoor dining, and this report includes a plan to make these into permanent footpath extensions. Businesses can already apply to convert additional on-street parking space for outdoor dining. These would be assessed by the City, with traffic and parking impacts considered by the City's Local Pedestrian, Cycling, Traffic Calming and Transport Forum (LPCTCTF) if required, including any community feedback.

Concern about footpath accessibility - shorelines and furniture design

16. Vision Australia and Guide Dogs NSW point out that outdoor dining can cause difficulties for pedestrians who are blind or have low vision and rely on predictability, local knowledge and features such as the building line to navigate public space. The submissions together recommend that dining should not be allowed alongside the building line, as this provides a 'shoreline' for people with vision impairment to navigate safely and easily. Where a shoreline cannot be provided against the building, it should be provided against the kerb, and dining should not be both sides of the pedestrian path. Finally, they request that a physical alternative, such as a low kerb or a full barrier or other physical feature, be provided as a navigation aid as last resort.
17. Both submissions also recommended that accessible furniture with a high luminance contrast is mandated to ensure furniture can be more easily seen by those who are blind or have low vision, otherwise it can cause a footpath obstruction or a risk of injury. The submissions also ask for furniture that is 'closed in' at the bottom to prevent tripping and entangling navigation canes. Similar points are made about planter pots.

Response

18. In many footpath situations, there are obstructions along both the building line and the kerb line that make it impossible to obtain a genuine clear shoreline. These obstructions include elements such as steps and Ausgrid pillars on the building side which are placed outside of the City's control; and trees, bike parking, parking meters and the like along the kerbside. The draft Guidelines focus on providing a more certain, unobstructed clear path of travel. This clear path will be set to avoid those existing elements along the building and kerb lines to ensure it is genuinely clear of obstructions. Dining along both sides of the clear path will only occur in limited circumstances where there is sufficient space to allow both while maintaining a genuinely clear path.
19. The draft Guidelines already include a requirement for furniture design to promote accessibility. This includes minimum luminance contrast consistent with the Australian Standard to ensure that furniture is sufficiently visible to pedestrians who are blind or have low vision. We do not mandate the use of specific types of tables or chairs and do not require furniture to be 'closed in' as these designs are often bulkier, harder to fit on our footpaths, and can cause obstructions and hazards in themselves. The draft Guidelines require that furniture and planter pots are outside the clear path, and that they are safe with no protruding edges.

Loss of parking and loading space

20. Some submissions are concerned that an increase in outdoor dining will lead to loss of parking and loading spaces, resulting in parking difficulties for residents, and businesses and their customers. Others object to further loss of parking spaces for temporary on-street dining and object to the temporary on-street dining becoming permanent and would prefer the spaces to be returned to parking. Submissions also ask that any outdoor dining applications that involve the loss, either temporary or permanent, of parking spaces should be notified for public comment.

Response

21. Outdoor dining on the footpath does not involve the loss of parking spaces. Any other applications that involve the loss of a parking space, including on-street dining, are first assessed by City planning officers. If impacts to parking and traffic are reasonable, or can be appropriately mitigated, the City notifies nearby properties of the proposal and, where required, refers the proposal to the Local Pedestrian, Cycling, Traffic Calming and Transport Forum for advice prior to approval.
22. Existing temporary on-street dining spaces, which have already been converted from car parking to dining, will need to demonstrate they are well-used and meet the criteria before being considered for permanent footpath extensions. Before they are made into permanent footpath extensions, they will be publicly notified again as part of the assessment process.

Concern about noise, anti-social behaviour and licensed premises

23. Some submissions raise concern that any increase in outdoor dining will have impacts on neighbourhood amenity, including increased noise and other disturbances. Other submissions raise objection to outdoor dining associated with pubs and other licensed premises, and with premises with poker machines. They say that residents experience disturbance from smoke, noise impacts, and harassment and anti-social behaviour from customers. They ask variously that such premises require a development application for outdoor dining, not have any or have less outdoor dining, have reduced outdoor dining hours, greater notifications of applications, and that they pay outdoor dining fees. Other submissions say that outdoor dining areas should be for sitting and eating, and that standing, drinking and smoking should not be allowed.

Response

24. Impacts on residential amenity are considered as part of the assessment of any outdoor dining application. The Guidelines include provisions about appropriate neighbourhood amenity and guidance on seating arrangements to manage noise. Hours of operation are set in Sydney DCP 2012, with outdoor operating hours generally limited to a 10pm closing time in residential areas. Where community members believe a venue is operating outside its approval, the City will investigate and work with the business to ensure compliance.

25. All outdoor dining on the footpath is exempt development under the State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Codes) 2008 (the SEPP), including pubs and hotels, and the City cannot require a development application. Council has made all outdoor dining free of charge and requiring that specific types of premises pay fees is not under consideration. Notifications for consultation on new applications have been reduced for all businesses in recognition of the very low rate of response, and because submissions generally raise issues that would already be considered in assessment, such as footpath space, noise and hours of operation. The NSW Government has amended the Roads Act and SEPP so that people are no longer required to be seated or have food served in outdoor dining areas, however, nonsmoking laws still apply in commercial outdoor dining areas.

Improving monitoring and compliance of outdoor dining areas

26. Some submissions ask for better monitoring and compliance for outdoor dining areas. According to submissions, operators sometimes place furniture outside their approved area and cause obstruction on the footpath, with pedestrian safety compromised as a result. Submissions ask for greater enforcement including the immediate removal of offending furniture, or the capacity to revoke approvals for persistent breaches. Others ask for boundary markers or similar so that the approved dining area can be clearly established.

Response

27. While the draft Guidelines maintain the capacity for the City to revoke outdoor dining approvals, our preferred approach is to work with businesses to ensure they operate within their approval. As a new initiative the City will be installing boundary markers on footpaths with a high volume of outdoor dining to allow for easier identification of the clear path of travel and encourage easier self-compliance by operators.

Outdoor hours of operation and approved dining area

28. A number of submissions from Millers Point object to the alignment of outdoor dining hours to indoor trading hours. One objects to the removal of the approved limit on how much space an outdoor dining area can occupy.

Response

29. The draft Guidelines do not propose any changes to operating hours which are set by Sydney Development Control Plan 2012 (Sydney DCP). The exhibited draft clearly states at provision 7.1 that operating hours for outdoor dining will follow the outdoor trading hours in Sydney DCP. Nor is there any proposal to change Sydney DCP to align indoor and outdoor trading hours. The draft Guidelines also make it clear that any outdoor dining approvals will be limited to a clearly identified area of the footpath. The City will trial the use of boundary markers to clearly delineate the approved area in areas with a high concentration of dining.

Other matters raised

30. Merivale made a submission objecting to the clear path of travel on City Centre streets, which has been set as 3 metres. Merivale operate a number of venues with outdoor dining in central Sydney, and 3 of those have a clear path of less than 3m. These are the Grand Hotel, with a clear path of 2.88m to Hunter Street; Hotel CBD with 2.75m to York Street and 2 metres to King Street; and the Slip Inn with 2.45 metres to Sussex Street. The submission notes the contribution these venues make to liveliness and activity in central Sydney, and that they would lose seating to achieve compliance.
31. The Merivale submission and the contribution those venues make is noted. As the outdoor dining approvals come up for renewal, the City will work with Merivale to understand their outdoor dining needs whilst maintaining a continuous accessible path of travel for pedestrians.
32. Placemaking NSW made a submission asking for the Guidelines to be updated to reflect the change in name from Property NSW to Placemaking NSW, and to update the map showing where Placemaking NSW is the permitting authority for outdoor dining. These changes have been made in Attachment B.

Implementing permanent footpath extensions

33. There are currently 173 on-street dining spaces that are separated to traffic by concrete barriers. Of these, 2 spaces will be removed for installation of a new cycleway along Campbell Street and 24 will be included in planned street-wide public domain upgrades. The remaining 147 existing spaces, plus any new spaces, will be considered against the criteria in Part 5 of the Guidelines for conversion to permanent footpath extensions as part of this program. Where spaces do not meet the criteria for permanent footpath extensions, they will be decommissioned and the City will work with the operator regarding what is suitable.
34. Over time, on-street dining spaces will be converted to permanent footpath extensions, the concrete barriers removed, and the contract to hire the barriers ended. The City will cover costs of the conversions up to \$20M which has been included in the Long-Term Financial Plan.
35. Temporary concrete barriers will be phased out. If the business owner prefers the City does not install a permanent footpath extension or there is a reason the permanent extension is not supported in the location, the City would remove the concrete barriers and return the space to its previous use.
36. The City has prepared an Implementation Plan, at Attachment C to this report, to guide the conversion to permanent spaces. Implementation will be undertaken to minimise disruption to businesses and the community and maximise operational and financial efficiency. Implementation will avoid construction disruption during peak trading periods and where possible will be coordinated with other capital works projects and neighbourhood and village delivery plans for operational efficiency.
37. The sites have been categorised according to complexity - some will be very simple requiring no specific design work or approvals and construction would take approximately 5-10 days. Other sites require specialist design, infrastructure changes and government agency approvals and will take longer to plan and construct.

38. In order to minimise disruption and ensure an orderly roll out of this infrastructure, the Implementation plan looks to sequence delivery of the sites, aiming for approximately 20-30 sites per year. The on-street dining space will be unavailable during construction, and businesses will be notified 3 times - 4-6 months, 4 weeks, and 2 days ahead of construction to allow them to plan effectively. Implementation will commence in March 2027, following further engagement with businesses. It is anticipated that the areas will be delivered progressively over an 8 year period.

Communication and education

39. Communications will be delivered in 3 stages.
- (a) **Stage 1: notification phase** will provide certainty and transparency through targeted communications to eligible on-street dining sites (and corresponding property owners) supported by targeted notifications to businesses, surrounding businesses and residents as individual sites progress toward delivery.
 - (b) **Stage 2: engagement phase** will give businesses opportunities to learn more about the program through activities such as a business webinar, face-to-face engagement with the project team and ongoing customer service channels. The key messages and FAQs about the roll out that will underpin all communications, ensuring consistent responses to enquiries about timing, impacts, accessibility, site suitability and the benefits of the program will be published on the City's website following Council endorsement of the new guidelines.
 - (c) **Stage 3: community storytelling and project promotion**, with 2 broader communications bursts: the first following Council endorsement to announce the program and its city-wide benefits, and the second as the first permanent sites are underway or completed to demonstrate outcomes and build momentum. Channels will include the project webpage, email communications, Council news and media opportunities, social media, and business networks. Visual content, including before-and-after imagery, will be a key feature across these communications to showcase the transformation from temporary installations to high-quality permanent public domain outcomes that support local businesses and more vibrant streets.
40. During the initial implementation period of the new Guidelines up to 1 February 2027, the City will be focused on education and communication with businesses as outlined. In accordance with the City's Compliance Policy, an educative and voluntary compliance approach will be prioritised. The City may still take compliance action during this period where necessary in matters of significant risk to public safety.

Key implications

Strategic alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision

41. Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision renews the communities' vision for the sustainable development of the city to 2050. It includes 10 strategic directions to guide the future of the city, as well as 10 targets against which to measure progress. This report is aligned with the following strategic directions and objectives:
- (a) Direction 1 - Responsible governance and stewardship - the proposed changes seek to balance public and private interest in the use of public space.
 - (b) Direction 3 - Public places for all - the proposed changes work to ensure that public and private interests are balanced when considering applications for use of public space.
 - (a) Direction 4 - Design excellence and sustainable development - the proposed changes seek to protect the quality and amenity of public space and ensure that outdoor dining adds to the interest and vitality of our streetscapes
 - (b) Direction 5 - A city for walking, cycling and public transport - the proposed changes manage footpath use in a way that maintains capacity for the movement of people walking and cycling while encouraging uses which bring interest and activity to the street
 - (c) Direction 6 - An equitable and inclusive city - the draft Guidelines include measures to ensure our public spaces remain accessible and inclusive by prioritising an unobstructed continuous accessible path of travel and encouraging accessible furniture design for dining spaces
 - (a) Direction 7 - Resilient and diverse communities - the proposed changes support the equitable use of public space, support strong local businesses and economies, and protect valued opportunities for community interaction.

Risks

42. There is some financial risk associated with the provision of the outdoor dining program. The City has a responsibility to ensure that it has sufficient resources in the short, medium and long term to provide the levels of service that are both affordable and considered appropriate by the community. Sufficient budget has been included in the Long-Term Financial Plan to support the delivery of footpath extensions given that outdoor dining on footpath and on street, supports local businesses and activates public spaces for the community. The City's risk appetite statement notes that it will tolerate capital outlays attributable to innovation to meet community needs and provide better outcomes.
43. We acknowledge the diverse expectations of our stakeholders in how we manage public spaces, including the community, businesses, ratepayers, regulatory bodies and elected officials. Our risk appetite seeks to manage public spaces for the benefit of the community, whilst being prepared to implement change and embrace innovation. Outdoor dining, on footpaths and on streets, has become an important part of the City's culture and street life. The draft Guidelines seek to optimise benefits of outdoor dining while maintaining community access to public spaces.

44. We recognise that health and safety risks are inherent in all of our activities and in the public domain for which we are responsible. We acknowledge that achieving a risk-free environment is not feasible, especially in the public domain. The City has a minimal risk appetite where the risks associated with activities can be effectively mitigated. The proposed changes outlined in the Guidelines are considered to represent minimal public domain safety and amenity risks, balancing the benefits to the community and the economy from these activities. In accordance with the City's Compliance Policy enforcement activities will be focused on matters relating to public safety to ensure these risks are managed appropriately.

Financial implications

45. A total of \$20 million has been included in the Long-Term Financial Plan to allow the roll-out of footpath extensions including staff resources to plan and manage the delivery.
46. Funds for the concrete barriers have been included in the long-term financial plan to allow time to commence the transition from temporary spaces to footpath extensions.

Relevant legislation

47. Roads Act 1993.
48. Local Government Act 1993.
49. Crown Land Management Act 2016.
50. Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

Critical dates / Time frames

51. The current approvals to allow temporary on-street dining are due to expire on 30 June 2027. Funding for temporary barriers required beyond this date will be addressed in future budgets.
52. If adopted by Council, the Guidelines would commence from 1 October 2026. Communications and education activities will be the focus for the initial implementation period up to 1 February 2027, with enforcement action only being taken for matters involving risks to public safety during this period.
53. If Council approves, the Outdoor Dining Policy would be rescinded from 1 October 2026.

Public consultation

- 54. The draft Guidelines were placed on exhibition from 12 January to 12 March 2026.
- 55. This report describes the activities undertaken, the outcomes from consultation and includes a summary engagement report at Attachment A.
- 56. Effective communication is critical to allow businesses to plan for the period when their on-street dining is unavailable. Stakeholder engagement will be conducted throughout planning and delivery of the program. The Implementation Plan at Attachment C includes an outline of the stakeholder communication and engagement approach and timing.

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