

OFFICER'S REPORT**6.2 Permanent Outdoor Dining Solution**

Submitting Councillor: Stuart James

MOTION

That Council

1. *Sees the value in exploring options for additional outdoor dining areas, whether they be permanent, semi-permanent and/or seasonal.*
2. *Acknowledges that there has not yet been consultation with traders within Activity Centres to understand their views on any such initiative, including the loss of car spaces, nor has there been any opportunity for the community to share their views.*
3. *Undertakes trader and broader consultation to understand their views on additional enhanced outdoor dining/trading opportunities and reports back to Council on the outcome of the consultation at or before the September 2022 Council meeting. This will enable Council to consider whether it proceeds with developing a policy for additional enhanced outdoor dining/trading areas (where appropriate) including consideration of:*
 - *Agreement or otherwise to the loss of carparking spaces*
 - *How any additional enhanced outdoor dining/trading area could be provided.*
 - *What other businesses other than hospitality businesses could utilise enhanced outdoor areas.*
 - *The look and standard of what additional enhanced outdoor dining areas should deliver, should they be implemented, including, but not limited to, matters such as footpath expansion with realigned kerb and channels and the types of additional structures that could be considered to enhance our Activity Centres.*
4. *That Council includes an allocation of \$50,000 in its 2022/23 budget to facilitate this work.*

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There is no dedicated budget allocation for this work to be undertaken.

Formal consultation with traders within the Activity Centres and development and implementation of any policy changes would require a dedicated budget allocation in the order of \$50,000. This would include formal notification costs, standard design drawings and preparation of standard licencing agreements

IMPACT ON INTERNAL RESOURCES

This project is not within any current business plans. The initial research, trader consultation and policy development will need to be undertaken in addition to existing staff workloads.

COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICIES

The Motion relates to the following Council Plans and Strategies:

1. Environmental Sustainability Strategy

- a. Ensure public and private spaces deliver connectivity, liveability and sustainability outcomes at the catchment scale

2. A Healthy and Resilient Monash: Integrated Plan

- a. Promote active transport
- b. Promote opportunities for public art.
- c. Create safe, inclusive and accessible spaces.

3. Economic Development Strategy and Action Plan

- a. Plan for attractive and vibrant employment precincts and work in collaboration with other parts of Council to promote employment precincts and activity centres as places to work, recreate and learn.
- b. Support the Urban Design and Planning departments to drive improved amenity and employment opportunities within Monash precincts

4. Monash Planning Scheme and Activity Centre Structure Plans**5. Monash Open Space Strategy*****RELEVANCE TO WORK ALREADY UNDERTAKEN BY OFFICERS OR COMMITTEES***

Council has an existing Footpath Trading Policy and permit system. Any changes arising from this work would need to be reflected in the Footpath Trading Policy.

In some instances outdoor dining is linked to the broader urban design, co-ordinated public realm improvements identified in Activity Centre Structures such as Glen Waverley, Oakleigh and Mount Waverley. Consideration of the removal of parking would need to be considered against the adopted objectives and actions of each Structure Plan.

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS***Removal of car parking***

The complexity involved in the removal of car parking spaces from activity centres and their replacement with outdoor dining will vary depending on the activity centre, how the car parking was provided, funded and constructed and the views of other traders in the location.

Competition for use of public realm

Depending on the location, in some instances the removal of car parking and installation of outdoor dining may be slightly ad hoc and contrary to the overall direction of approved structure plans. Each application would need to be considered against any Footpath Trading policy and the broader public realm and community use of that space.

Annual value of outdoor dining

In addition feedback and uptake of enhanced outdoor dining has been varied over the course of the program with less than 30 businesses taking the opportunity to utilise these areas. The value and attractiveness of outdoor dining is also very dependent on the seasons and prevailing weather conditions.

CONCLUSION

The recommendations in the Notice of Motion can be delivered, acknowledging the very tight timeframe allowed for this work. The budget allocation is critical to delivering on what is requested in the NoM.