

# THE CITY OF MELBOURNE'S EXTENDED OUTDOOR DINING PROGRAM

## (IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19)

COVID-19 has been tough for hospitality businesses. To support business during this time, the City of Melbourne ran an Extended Outdoor Dining (EOD) program between 1st October 2020 and 31st March 2021 (which has now been extended to 30th June 2021). The EOD program has streamlined permitting processes enabling dining in parklets, street/laneway closures, parks/promenades and more on-footpath dining.

### SUPPORTING THE FOOD INDUSTRY

The program supported 650 businesses to trade on footpaths, in parks, promenades and in closed streets and laneways.



### MORE PERMITS FOR OUTDOOR DINING

An additional 852 outdoor dining permits were issued during the initial 6 month program. This is a 113% increase in outdoor dining permits.



### BUSINESSES AND COMMUNITY POSITIVE SENTIMENTS

**88%**

Residents, workers, business owners/operators and students thought the EOD program was a good addition to the city<sup>2</sup>.

**96%**

Businesses think that the program has created a positive vibe<sup>1</sup>.

### GENERATING REVENUE FOR BUSINESSES

The program was designed to support businesses by expanding their outdoor spaces for trade. 75% of businesses generated at least an additional \$1,642 per week from their EOD areas.



### MORE OUTDOOR SEATING CAPACITY

**+18,000**

Additional seats were estimated to have been created for cafes, restaurants and bars.



### POSITIVE FLOW-ON BENEFITS FOR WIDER ECONOMY

The program generated an additional 100 jobs of which 64 were in the food industry plus \$20.6m in broader economic benefits.

**+20.6M**

Wider economic benefits

**+100**

Jobs retained/created



### PROGRAM COSTS

The program cost Council \$7.7m to run – largely comprising forgone parking revenue, footpath trading revenue, barrier and infrastructure costs. This cost was offset by a State Government grant bringing Council's out of pocket costs to \$1.9m. The cost after the grant was \$2,240 per EOD area.



### A CONTINUING PROGRAM LEGACY

The City of Melbourne has determined to continue the program beyond the initial period of 30th June 2021. This will mean that businesses can continue to benefit from extended outdoor dining areas. The City of Melbourne will be introducing fees for these areas, albeit at reduced rates for permits and providing a list of preferred suppliers for parklets.

