

RELEVANT INFORMATION FOR COUNCIL

FILE: S060627-02 **DATE:** 24 October 2016
TO: Lord Mayor and Councillors
FROM: Louise Kerr, Acting Director City Planning, Development and Transport
SUBJECT: FURTHER Information Relevant To Item 9.3 - Post-Exhibition - Outdoor Dining and Displays of Goods on the Footway - At Council - 24 October 2016

That the Lord Mayor and Councillors note the information contained in this memo.

Background

At its meeting on 10 October 2016, the Planning and Development Committee considered a report following the exhibition of Council's Outdoor Dining Policy, Guidelines and Action Plan. The Committee requested further information on the use of tactile indicators to assist wayfinding in the public domain. The Action Plan includes an action to investigate options for alternative tactile indicators that could be widely used as a wayfinding aid on public footways.

On Friday 21 October 2016, Councillors received an email from the Principal Policy Advisor for Guide Dogs NSW (**Attachment A**). The email seeks clarification on staff comments at the Committee meeting relating to a trial of outdoor dining options. The email also requests further clarification on Council's position on the use of barriers on footways to separate outdoor dining from pedestrians.

Trial of outdoor dining options

The Outdoor Dining Action Plan at Attachment D to the report to the Planning and Development Committee on 10 October 2016 proposes to investigate, develop and trial the use of tactile indicators that could be widely used as a wayfinding aid on the City's footways. The Action Plan does not propose assessing the effectiveness of barriers to separate outdoor dining areas from pedestrians. The Committee did not request additional information on the use of barriers.

Barriers on the footway

The City does not support the use of barriers on the footway, although they are sometimes imposed as a consent condition by the Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing when granting licences to premises that primarily serve alcohol.

The decision to not support barriers is consistent with Council's current practice, and does not represent a change to the current situation.

Council has previously considered the use of barriers as an alternative wayfinding option. To be effective for wayfinding, whilst also being safe within the public domain, barriers would need to meet the following performance standards:

1. be designed to be solid at the bottom, so as to be detectable with a long cane;
2. have a contrasting panel at both the top and the bottom, with sufficient luminance or colour contrast to be detectable by pedestrians with low-vision;
3. be solid and continuous on the top rail, to provide hand-guidance;
4. be sufficiently solid and heavy, and fixable to the pavement to ensure pedestrian safety;
5. be sufficiently light and mobile to be easily removed and stored within the premises when the outdoor dining area is not in use;
6. be standardised size, design and materials to allow for easy and cost-effective manufacture;
7. be adaptable to allow for different configurations of outdoor dining areas, local street character and for variations in footway topography; and
8. be attractive and unobtrusive within the public domain, and suitable for widespread use on the City's footways.

The City undertook initial design investigations for the barrier, including options design, installation procedures, and costing. The barriers were not considered appropriate for widespread use on the City's footways due to their size (height), weight, obtrusiveness, and perceptions of privatising the public footway. Cost estimates indicated a minimum manufacture cost of approximately \$2,150 to \$2,750 for a typical outdoor dining area, with additional installation costs of \$560.

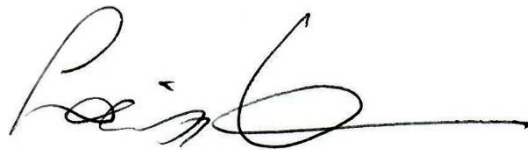
Prepared by: David Fitzpatrick, Senior Planner

TRIM Document Number: 2016/557783

Attachments

Attachment A - Email from Guide Dogs NSW - 21 October 2016 - outdoor dining barriers

Approved



**Louise Kerr, Acting Director City Planning,
Development and Transport**

ATTACHMENT A

**EMAIL FROM GUIDE DOGS NSW –
21 OCTOBER 2016 – OUTDOOR DINING
BARRIERS**

From: Armstrong, Jaci [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, 21 October 2016 5:45 AM

To: City of Sydney <council@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au>; Clover Moore <cmoore@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au>; Kerryn Phelps <KPhelps@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au>; Craig Chung <CChung@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au>; Christine Forster <CForster@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au>; Robert Kok <rkok@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au>; 'Councillorjmilller@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au' <Councillorjmilller@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au>; Linda Scott <LScott@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au>; Jess Scully <JScully@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au>; Philip Thalys <PThalys@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au>; Angela Vithoukaskas <AVithoukaskas@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au>

[REDACTED]

Subject: Proposed Outdoor Dining Policy

Importance: High

Dear Councillors,

Thank you for your decision at the last Planning Committee meeting to seek further information regarding the proposed Outdoor Dining Policy.

We understand that at the Planning Committee meeting on Monday 10 October, reference was made by Planning staff to the City undertaking a trial of outdoor dining options. Was the effectiveness as to the use of barriers also a consideration? As we don't have access to minutes from that meeting, we would appreciate Council staff's clarification as to the accuracy of our understanding.

Please confirm if Council is proposing to do a trial before a final decision is made so Council can make an informed decision on the risk and impact of the policy as proposed? Guide Dogs reiterates our standing offer that we would be more than happy to assist with a trial and demonstration for educative purposes.

There are references within the post exhibition report that indicate Council has determined unequivocally that barriers are unsuitable and economically unviable. We understand similar statements were made at the Planning Committee meeting last Monday also.

Given the implication of the determination to not implement appropriate mechanisms to effectively provide a barrier between diners and pedestrians on people who are blind and vision impaired, and given the existing requirement of barriers (as you point out) for premises with liquor licenses, we would be most appreciative if Council could share the source and a summary of your research in this area.

Should Council decide to adopt the policy as it is currently proposed, it would be most useful for us to be able to reference the expert opinions the City is relying upon when explaining to our consumers why they should accept the disorientating and potentially hazardous conditions they will be faced with when trying to walk around the city as will be the effect of the proposed policy.

I am traveling interstate today, however should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact [REDACTED]

Your assistance and clarification is appreciated.

With kind regards,

Jaci

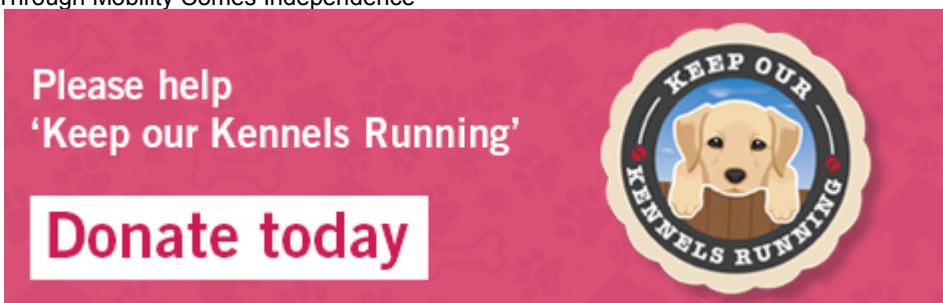


Jaci Armstrong | *Principal Policy Advisor* | **Guide Dogs Australia**

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[REDACTED]
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Through Mobility Comes Independence



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