

Attachment A

**Correspondence – Minister for
Infrastructure, Transport and Active Cities
to the Lord Mayor – On Street Outdoor
Dining Funding**



The Hon. Rob Stokes MP
Minister for Infrastructure
Minister for Cities
Minister for Active Transport

Our Ref: 01692790

Councillor Clover Moore
Lord Mayor of Sydney
City of Sydney Council
Sydney Town Hall
483 George Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Via email: cmoore@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

Dear Cr Moore *Clover,*

Thank you for your correspondence to the Premier regarding on-street dining. As this matter falls within the Infrastructure, Cities and Active Transport portfolio, your correspondence was referred to me.

I acknowledge your feedback on behalf of the City of Sydney Council in relation to on-street dining, and note Council's request for funding and infrastructure to enable on-street dining to continue.

The NSW Government is putting a focus on ensuring everyone has access to walkable, attractive and vibrant public spaces through collaboration with local councils, supporting pilot and demonstration projects, and developing tools and guides to build capacity across government and industry.

While there are no current funding programs available to subsidise the costs of outdoor dining fees or infrastructure for Council or businesses, there have been significant investment and reform measures over the past couple of years to support councils and businesses pave the way for longer-term changes to public spaces across NSW.

Outdoor dining reforms were instrumental in bringing central hubs back to life after the impacts of the pandemic and allowing businesses to take advantage of outdoor spaces. Application processes have been simplified to make it easier for businesses to apply for and operate outdoor dining.

The NSW Government has supported the activation of outdoor spaces investing over \$66 million, and is continuing to give the streets back to the people with many initiatives across NSW. Key to this has been the Alfresco Restart Package, launched in 2021 and designed to bring the streets of NSW back to life post-pandemic through outdoor dining, live music and entertainment.

The Alfresco Restart initiatives under *The Festival of Place...in your streets* include the Long Summer Nights Program, Streets as Shared Spaces Program, Summer Night Fund Program, and the Open Streets Program, assisting councils across NSW.

Further, Transport for NSW has assisted in support for Council with the pedestrianisation of George Street, which will see 20,000 sqm of space between Circular Quay and Central reclaimed and prioritised for walking, cycling and outdoor dining.

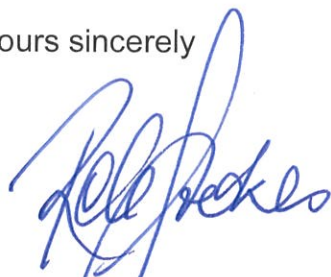
Transport for NSW works collaboratively with the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE), which has responsibility for the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008* (Codes SEPP). Exempt development to use the footpath for food and drink premises, including pubs and small bars, is permanent in the Codes SEPP. To encourage more outdoor dining and give businesses longer to seek permanent approval, DPE has extended the temporary outdoor dining rules until 31 December 2023.

Consent authorities, usually councils, can approve outdoor dining more quickly and at a lower cost than requiring a development application. To help speed up the application process, DPE has created an online platform on the planning portal that allows participating councils to receive an online lodgement for outdoor dining.

In addition, the Small Business Commissioner's 'NSW Outdoor Dining User Guide' and the Office of Local Government's 'Streamlined Outdoor Dining Approvals' guide have been developed to support councils with outdoor dining and the approval process.

Should you have any questions, you are welcome to contact Ms Kiersten Fishburn, Deputy Secretary, Cities and Active Transport at Transport for NSW on 0417 201 965.

Yours sincerely



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