

Extended Outdoor Dining FAQs – updated 2 March 2021

How will extended outdoor dining permits support businesses to reopen?

We will provide free, temporary extended outdoor dining permits until 30 June 2021, for eligible hospitality venues to expand trading onto the footpath outside your premises or adjoining premises and trading using an on-street parking space immediately in front of your business and/or adjoining businesses.

We are also accepting **proposals** for you to join with neighbouring businesses – these will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

What criteria do I need to meet to apply for the permit?

The permits will be assessed against the following:

- How will your venue be able to accommodate customers safety and comply with density and distancing requirements as outlined by the Victorian Government?
- Will the extension of outdoor trading still allow adequate access for pedestrians, residents and essential vehicles (see checklist for more details)?
- Does it meet the guidelines in the Footpath Activities Policy and Footpath Trading Booklet?
- Do you have permission from your neighbouring businesses?
- How will you work to minimise impacts on residents?
- Does your business have a COVIDSafe Plan?
- Where there is no Health Registration a further review will be required to determine whether the business is fit for food service. The type of Health registration will determine whether outdoor dining will be appropriate.

When and how can I apply for the permit?

- Applications are now open – apply now online. A full list of resources and guidelines are available to help you with your application.
- We're working to fast-track the application process to make sure eligible businesses have their permits approved and are ready to trade outdoors as soon as we can.

What about liquor licencing?

- You will need to vary an existing licence for extended areas.
- We will help you fast-track your liquor licence, by providing a letter of permission that can be passed on the VCGLR along with your permit. The information requested in our application form will assist with this. That is why your site map needs to be as detailed as your original application for a 'red line'.

What kind of furniture and equipment can I purchase?

The permitted furniture is outlined in the Footpath Activities Policy and Footpath Trading Booklet. This needs to be of a high-quality design, construction and finish that Council considers attractive and will complement the character of the streetscape.

What about access and residential amenity? Council will assess permits on a case-by-case basis taking into consideration transport conditions, safety, amenity and access for pedestrians, residents and essential vehicles. There may be some areas that are not appropriate for extended outdoor trading because of safety and amenity conditions.

Why are there limits on the type of car parking spaces that can be used for this program?

We know how important car parking can be for your business. It is important that we maintain a balance of parking and access for retailers and services providers, customers and staff within your precincts. We also need to be able to review travel movements to make sure that centres are still accessible and safe for visitors.

What about disability access?

More than 20% of Darebin residents, and your customers, have a disability. This is one reason why you must allow at least 1.5 meters or more, clear from your business boundary line to the placement of any furniture. People using a wheelchair or mobility aid should be able to sit at a table with no obstructions blocking leg space beneath the table and you know where the nearest accessible toilet is for your customers (if not onsite). This also helps with families with prams.

Will I be able to extend my operating hours?

This will be reviewed on a case by case basis. We know that you are eager to accommodate customers, and we need to balance this with our community and residents who live nearby.

Will I be able to leave out my furniture overnight?

No, all furniture will need to be taken inside, just like any other furniture you may have had on the street. Please note: The business must consider safety risks associated with indoor storage of Planter boxes and gas equipment.

What is the turn-around times for applications?

Each application will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. The more detailed information you provide upfront will assist us turn this around for you as quickly as we can.

Will we be able to use amplified music in the outdoor dining area?

No, this is currently not permitted as part of outdoor dining and this won't change.

What needs to be included in your neighbour's letter of consent?

Included below is a sample letter: Temporary Extension of Footpath and/or adjacent car parks for your use.

Date:

I am the owner/operator of <business name> at <business address>.

I give permission for my neighbour, <your business name> at <your business address>, to utilise the footpath trading area in front of my business until 30 June 2021. I am also aware that this extension may include adjacent car parking bays.

I support <your business name> using this area for their own outdoor activities.

Signed

<Your name>

<Your business address>

Signed

<Your neighbour's name>

<Your neighbour's business address>