

ALFRESCO DINING - A TASTE OF THINGS TO COME

Member for Vaucluse Gabrielle Upton MP today welcomed news that the successful NSW alfresco dining trial is to become permanent when the current six-month trial ends on 30 October 2021.

Ms Upton said, “This scheme enabled our pubs, cafes and restaurants to expand onto footpaths and public spaces so that more people could enjoy Sydney’s dining options in a COVID-safe way.

“Given its success, the Government will now look at making the trial permanent and in turn making it easier for businesses to operate and enjoy themselves outdoors in one of the most wonderful climates in the world.”

Minister for Digital and Minister for Customer Service Victor Dominello said the feedback and results from the trial have been overwhelmingly positive.

“Over 200 venues, more than 130 of them licensed, have taken part in the trial which has created capacity for 3,350 additional patrons.

“During the first eight weeks of the trial, Darling Harbour businesses reported an average increase of 33 per cent in business turnover and a 27 per cent increase in patrons.”

NSW Treasurer Dominic Perrottet said “We heard at the inaugural Sydney Summit last year how important this move was to free up businesses and it aligns closely with recommendations made recently by the NSW Productivity Commissioner Peter Achterstraat in his [final report](#).”

Longer-term alfresco plans under consideration include:

- Continuing to offer a temporary process to encourage experimentation and innovation, particularly with multi-venue activations. For example, businesses including small bars and pubs do not need to make a development application to use footpath and public space outside their venues for alfresco dining purposes, saving time and money
- Providing an easy rollover from temporary to permanent alfresco dining approvals so that successful activations can be extended or made permanent without further red tape
- Reducing red tape associated with permanent outdoor dining applications, including expanded use of provisional approvals so that venues can offer alfresco dining
- Introducing changes to better integrate alfresco dining at existing venues with one off street activations such as markets, festivals and community events.

For further information about NSW’s alfresco dining trial visit [here](#)

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