

Member for Altona District Jill Hennessy

Member for Williamstown District Melissa Horne

16 March 2021

MORE FUNDING FOR OUTDOOR DINING IN HOBSONS BAY

Popular outdoor dining areas for restaurants, pubs and cafes in Hobsons Bay will continue through a COVIDSafe autumn thanks to support from the Andrews Labor Government.

Minister for Local Government Shaun Leane today announced Hobsons Bay City Council will receive an additional \$350,000 to expand outdoor dining and support local hospitality businesses.

Hobsons Bay City Council will use the funding to expand its outdoor dining program and continue to support infrastructure improvements, maintenance, equipment hire and cleaning for outdoor dining areas.

The new funding is part of a \$5 million extension to the \$87.5 million Outdoor Eating and Entertainment Package released in September to support Victoria's world-class hospitality industry.

The package provided councils across Victoria with \$29.5 million in grants to set up outdoor dining areas and pocket parks, as well as waiving permit fees, streamlining processes and investing in lighting and other infrastructure.

Hobsons Bay City Council used this funding to set up its Hobsons Bay Business has Heart Outdoors program which set up shared areas for shops and hospitality businesses, expanded footpath trading and parklets with barriers, planter boxes and artificial grass, tables and chairs.

The \$5 million additional funding was prioritised to metropolitan councils, regional cities, and peri-urban areas that have faced significant additional costs supporting outdoor dining, due to their size, location, geography or visitation.

For more information on local government support initiatives, visit www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au

Quote attributable to Minister for Local Government, Shaun Leane

"Councils are key contributors to local economies and the Victorian Government is determined to give them the support they need to create jobs and support economic recovery in their communities."

Quote attributable to Member for Altona District Jill Hennessy

"Our communities across Hobsons Bay have really embraced outdoor dining this summer and with this additional funding Council can support more businesses to stay open and safe as we head into autumn."

Quotes attributable to Member for Williamstown Melissa Horne

"It's been great to see the life brought back to Williamstown's amazing cafes, restaurants and bars this summer and it's fantastic we will see even more outdoor dining through the autumn."

"With this funding even more Hobsons Bay hospitality businesses can take advantage of outdoor dining opportunities for a COVIDSafe autumn like no other."

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