

Media Release

The Hon Shaun Leane MLC
Minister for Local Government
Minister for Suburban Development
Minister for Veterans



Thursday, 4 February 2021

MORE FUNDING TO COUNCILS FOR OUTDOOR DINING

More support for popular COVIDSafe outdoor dining and entertainment areas across greater Melbourne is on the way with a new funding commitment from the Andrews Labor Government.

Minister for Local Government Shaun Leane today announced an additional \$5 million for a second round of funding to enable councils to continue to support their local hospitality venues.

Since the release of the \$87.5 million *Outdoor Eating and Entertainment Package* in September, councils across Victoria have been provided with more than \$29 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.

Bayside City Council has used the funding to set up areas on the foreshore and in parks and reserves where hospitality businesses can trade. Moorabool Shire has set up parklets for outdoor dining and launched a digital marketing campaign showcasing local hospitality.

In total, 54 councils have fast-tracked application and approval processes for permits from venues, 34 have set up parklets and seating areas and 36 have invested in more street furniture, seating and marquees.

These initiatives have proved popular with Victorians and have bolstered the hospitality industry's recovery from the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

The new round of funding for local governments will prioritise the metropolitan and fringe councils that face significant additional costs supporting outdoor dining, due to their size, location or geography.

Up to \$500,000 will be available to all metropolitan councils, regional cities, and the Bass Coast, Baw Baw, Macedon Ranges, Moorabool, Golden Plains and Surf Coast shires.

Applications open on Friday, 5 February and close at 2:00pm on Friday, 26 February. For more information on local government support initiatives, go to localgovernment.vic.gov.au.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Local Government Shaun Leane

"It's been fantastic to see how outdoor dining has been embraced across Melbourne – it's made a real difference to the hospitality industry and I know many Victorians have enjoyed the outdoor areas councils have helped create."

"This new funding will help councils do everything they can to support their local hospitality industry recover from the impact of the pandemic."