

12 February 2021

In reply please quote reference:

Ref: **A5853827**

Dear community member / local business operator

Re: Decision regarding proposed temporary open space in Duncan Street Fairfield.

Thank you for taking the time to provide your feedback regarding the proposed temporary open space in Duncan Street, Fairfield. The proposed closure was part of Darebin Council's response to help support our local businesses and community members socialise in a COVID-safe way.

Darebin Council also received some funding from the State Government to accelerate an outdoor dining strategy to support hospitality businesses. Since September we have facilitated a range of outdoor dining options including extended footpath trading, created parklets (where car spaces are re-purposed to enable more table spaces for outdoor dining) plus introduced activity in laneways. This has resulted in over 1,000 additional seats for restaurant and café patrons.

Another stage in our outdoor dining plan is to work with our community to trial some temporary street closures to enable new, shared community spaces. Examples includes temporary parks and activations which would be able to support a range of local hospitality businesses and create new community gathering places in areas that have fewer public park spaces. Duncan Street was chosen as a possible location based on previous community engagement in Fairfield where we were told that an increase in seating and green open space was desired by many community members and businesses.

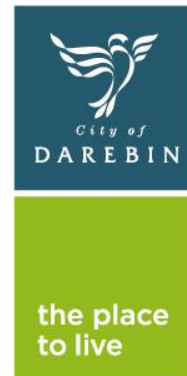
Community consultation was held between 20 January and 4 February where we collected both supportive and negative feedback regarding this proposal. Based on this feedback, we have decided not to go ahead with the temporary street closure which intended to create a well programmed community space whilst continuing to provide safe access for bicycles and pedestrians. We will not be looking at any other locations along or near Station Street, Fairfield as part of this program.

Individual local businesses may still choose to apply for a parklet. Please note that there is no requirement to undertake community consultation as part of their application process. Once again thank you for your feedback.

Yours sincerely



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Acting Manager Economic Recovery & Resilience



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