

22 February 2021



In reply please quote reference: A5862462

Dear Owner/Occupier

**Re: Proposed temporary open space to support our local community and businesses.**

Thank you for your feedback regarding the proposed temporary open space to support local businesses & community in Benjamin Street in Thornbury.

I am writing to let you know that the trial will not proceed. The main reason for this is because there are upcoming construction works in the area and bus routes will temporarily move to Benjamin Street. We will continue to look for an alternative location for this kind of activity.

Council originally planned to trial a pocket park at Benjamin Street in December to help support our local businesses and community members to socialise in a COVID-Safe manner. Based on community feedback, the trial was delayed until we could consult further.

While the trial in this location won't go ahead, across the City so far, we have extended footpath trading, created parklets (to enable more table spaces for outdoor dining) and created spaces in laneways. This has resulted in over 1,000 additional seats for restaurant and café patrons in less than four months.

We'll continue to look for other opportunities nearby and in other places in the city. Temporary parks can support a range of local hospitality businesses and create new community gathering places in areas that have fewer public park spaces.

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.

For questions arising from the bus route – please contact Darebin City Council customer service on 8470 8888.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wendy Dinning', is placed below the 'Yours sincerely' text.

Wendy Dinning  
Acting Manager, Economic Recovery & Resilience

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