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## **Report of the General Manager - 22 August 2017**

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### **ITEM 6.3              Outdoor Dining Project**

**AUTHOR**              **City Future**

#### **ISSUE**

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To seek Council's support to participate in the NSW Governments' Outdoor Dining Project.

#### **RECOMMENDATION** That -

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1. Council agrees the Belfield Town Centre be the trial location for the outdoor dining project for a period of approximately 12 months.
2. A further report be submitted to Council following the trial period.
3. In accordance with Section 610E of the Local Government Act, Council publicly exhibit the waiving of outdoor dining fees during the trial period for the Belfield Town Centre.
4. Subject to Item 3, and there being no submissions, Council proceed to implement the waiving of the fees following the public exhibition period.

#### **BACKGROUND**

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The Office of the NSW Small Business Commissioner (OSBC) invited councils to develop a statewide position on outdoor dining. The aim of this initiative was to streamline the application process for outdoor dining, focus on a consistent policy, develop a user guide for business, whilst implementing a trial to test and validate the initiative across participating councils.

Canterbury-Bankstown Council is one of six councils in NSW participating with this initiative. The program promotes a simplified application form and process. Its aim is to make it easier to do business with council, encourage outdoor dining in our town centres and ensure a consistent experience for business operators across Local Government Boundaries.

#### **REPORT**

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Outdoor dining makes a significant contribution towards the vibrancy and quality of public spaces to the urban landscape. Through high quality design and placement, outdoor dining areas can help add character and visual excitement to the streetscape and provide extended trading opportunities for local businesses and support the prosperity of the local economy.

Currently the requirement for outdoor dining varies across NSW, complying with more than ten pieces of legislation across multiple government agencies, along with varying application fees, annual fees and conditions for the use of footway. The OSBC reports that onerous regulatory requirements placed on businesses in conjunction with significant financial costs, is a major deterrent in realising outdoor dining opportunities

The objective of this pilot trial is to develop a policy and regulatory framework with small business at the forefront that is based on a collaborative and cooperative approach. It seeks to reduce the administrative burden and compliance costs for small business through the efficiencies created by an online, and self-determining application approach.

The pilot trial will take approximately 12 months and participating councils are required to nominate a suitable commercial area.

The suburb of Belfield has been identified as an appropriate pilot area for Canterbury-Bankstown Council for a number of reasons.

Belfield Town Centre is a small neighbourhood commercial centre, comprising of local green grocers, supermarkets, restaurants, post office, a hotel, beauty salon, bakery and cafes. Whilst Belfield is a small neighbourhood commercial centre, many of the businesses are food businesses that may benefit from taking part in the trial.

Furthermore, in recent years, town centre improvement works were carried out in Belfield involving new pavers, street furniture and landscaping; which would facilitate for outdoor dining initiatives.

Belfield generally doesn't experience heavy foot traffic and is not anchored by a major shopping centre and is therefore considered a favourable location in terms of coordinating managing and measuring the project during the trial period.

The outdoor dining project aligns with the long-term vision of building relationships among local businesses, residents and property owners to add social, cultural, economic and aesthetic value to a place.

### **Moving Forward**

OSBC together with the participating councils will work together in developing a streamlined policy for outdoor dining, over the long term, together with reforming associated regulations in NSW.

The Outdoor Dining Trial in the nominated commercial area will commence from 4 September 2017 to 30 June 2018 and an evaluation of the Outdoor Dining Trial will be conducted and reported to council as part of this project.

At present, Council's Fees and Charges require relevant business operators to pay outdoor dining fees, where required.

That said, in accordance with Section 610E of the Local Government Act 1993, this proposal seeks Council's support to waive these fees during the trial period for the Belfield Town Centre.

The proposed change must be exhibited for a period of 28 days prior to implementing the change.

## **POLICY IMPACT**

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At this stage, this matter has no policy implications for Council.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

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There will be no fees collected for outdoor dining in the Belfield Town Centre during the trial project.

## **RECOMMENDATION** That -

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1. Council agrees the Belfield Town Centre be the trial location for the outdoor dining project for a period of approximately 12 months.
2. A further report be submitted to Council following the trial period.
3. In accordance with Section 610E of the Local Government Act, Council publicly exhibit the waiving of outdoor dining fees during the trial period for the Belfield Town Centre.
4. Subject to Item 3, and there being no submissions, Council proceed to implement the waiving of the fees following the public exhibition period.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

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Nil

