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## Service and Operational Matters - 18 October 2022

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### ITEM 8.3                      Hurlstone Park Parklet Trial

**AUTHOR**                      City Assets

#### **PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND**

To consider a Parklet trial utilising on-street kerb side parking spaces in Hurlstone Park, with a view to informing a Council policy position and associated fees and process for on street Parklet's.

#### **ISSUE**

Following the trial of a 'parklet' in Earlwood as part of the 'Streets as Shared Spaces Program' Council has been approached by a local business in Hurlstone Park to have a similar parklet.

Council does not have a regulatory framework for evaluation of such a request (including safety, consultation and local traffic committee considerations) nor does it have fees and charges.

This request presents an opportunity to develop a process, conduct a trial and report back to Council on the matter, supported by a proposed policy position, proposed process and suggested fees and charges.

#### **RECOMMENDATION** That -

1. Council endorse the introduction of a Parklet trial in Hurlstone Park for a period of 3 months as outlined in the report;
2. A further report be prepared to Council at the conclusion of the trial.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**                      [Click here for attachments](#)

- A. Earlwood, Inner West and Newcastle Parklet Dining
- B. Proposed Outdoor Dining Trial Location

## **POLICY IMPACT**

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The trial will be conducted in accordance with all Council policies, required approvals and road safety recommendations.

If the trial is successful, Council will use the learnings to assist in the development of supporting policies, procedures, and processes for Council's consideration as a City wide policy.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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The estimated cost of the proposed trial is \$15,000. Any applicable fees and charges would be waived for this trial.

## **COMMUNITY IMPACT**

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As part of the trial, Council will undertake a community consultation process with neighbouring businesses and relevant stakeholders to better understand their views not only for the parklet but also outdoor dining in general.

## DETAILED INFORMATION

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### Background

Over the last 2 years the hospitality industry both nationally and within our LGA has been dramatically impacted by COVID-19. As a result, Council has introduced several measures to support businesses such as the waiving of outdoor dining fees.

Recently, Council has been trialling temporary public domain improvements under the 'Streets as Shared Spaces Program'. One of these was the trial of a 'parklet' in Earlwood. A parklet is the temporary use of a car parking space introduced to create vibrant streetscapes and creating opportunities for businesses to grow and prosper. Kerbside car parking spaces are temporarily repurposed into public space 'pockets' providing any range of public uses, including seating, greenery, bike parking facilities, charging ports, and/or other communal elements. Additionally, they can provide an opportunity to function as a major business support tool for local food and beverage businesses. Parklets as temporary business spaces are becoming more common with some examples from Earlwood, the inner West and Newcastle shown in Attachment A and Councillors may have seen how these have been used in The Rocks by City of Sydney during Covid.

A review of these installations is currently underway, however recent feedback from local businesses and the community has been positive.

Council has recently been approached by HP Bowlo at 6 Crinan Street, Hurlstone Park requesting the use of kerbside parking for outdoor dining.

Council currently does not have a process or mechanism to allow for this to occur, or a specific or dedicated fee in the Fees and Charges.

### Purpose of the Trial

It is proposed that Council investigate the establishment of a Policy position and associated fees and processes to enable businesses to apply for a temporary parklet in the public domain.

The trial will:

- Give Council an understanding of the practical steps required to approve outdoor dining spaces in a car parking space;
- Provide guidance to businesses wishing to apply to establish or extend their outdoor dining areas;
- Help ensure any future application process is clear and simple;
- Assist Council in developing the supporting policies, procedures, and processes to potentially roll out to other areas across the LGA;
- Provide a decision-making framework for evaluating applications;
- Enable Council to understand what the likely impacts of a future program for outdoor dining for business and the community will be;
- Identifying the costs and potential fee to introduce;
- Allow Council to research and learn from other jurisdictions with regards to possible models for managing outdoor dining programs;
- Help to ensure safe dining options for the community; and

- Help establish guiding principles such as safety and amenity, equity of access, pedestrian access, vehicular access, attractive and high-quality spaces.

It is proposed that this parklet trial will be in place for 3 months over the summer period. This will allow Council to undertake an evaluation and report back on the proposed policy and fees and charges before the adoption of the 2023/24 budget.

### **Trial process**

The trial will involve the following key steps:

- Initial assessment of application
- Public notification and consultation
- Proposal to be referred to Traffic Committee for approval
- Approval granted under Sections 138 and 139 of the Roads Act NSW
- Installation of parklet
- Ongoing engagement with the local businesses and community
- Decommissioning of parklet

The proposed location (Attachment B) is approximately two car parking spaces and limited to the parking lane. Whilst a preliminary review is supportive, if Council supports the trial a detailed assessment of the proposal will be undertaken in relation to traffic and public safety impacts as well as business sentiment.

### **Economic benefits**

The expansion and encouragement of outdoor dining has already been endorsed by Council through the Economic Development Strategy Plan 2036, and the Night-time Economy Action Plan 2021-26.

Council's objective is to create a City that is renowned for its vibrancy, culture, opportunity, safety and centrality. A go-to City, for work, living, and memorable experiences. A key element of this is to support the growth of outdoor dining especially at night because it is typically during the evenings and after work that most people choose to enjoy their leisure time with friends and family.

At a macro level, Canterbury Bankstown is the 8th largest economy in NSW with a gross regional product of \$15.8 billion. We have a large and evolving population with the second highest number of registered businesses in NSW. We also have a night-time economy which has been growing at a rate above the City of Sydney since 2015. Supporting small businesses to develop outdoor dining and encouraging the community to engage with these is an economic imperative and an important feature of a modern city. At an individual business level, the main benefit of outdoor dining is that it allows for extra seating and space, which allows businesses to serve more customers and bring in more revenue, as a Town Centre level these parklets have the potential to transform the place for the modern day visitor who we want to dwell and live, not pass by to elsewhere.