

# MEDIA RELEASE

17 March 2021

## **MORE FUNDING FOR OUTDOOR DINING IN MOONEE VALLEY**

Popular outdoor dining areas for restaurants, pubs and cafes in Moonee Valley will continue through a COVIDSafe autumn thanks to support from the Andrews Labor Government.

Minister for Local Government Shaun Leane today announced Moonee Valley City Council will receive an additional \$350,000 to expand outdoor dining and support local hospitality businesses.

Moonee Valley City Council will use the funding to set up a range of pop-up parks and additional outdoor dining parklets for people to enjoy outdoors during the autumn and winter, alongside waived permit fees for businesses.

The new funding is part of a \$5 million extension to the \$87.5 million Outdoor Eating and Entertainment Package released in September to support Victoria's world-class hospitality industry.

The package provided councils across Victoria with \$29.5 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.

Moonee Valley City Council used this funding to set up 15 parklets at businesses across the city, including transforming Hallkeeper Lane into a community green space closed to traffic and a pop-up park at Union Square.

The \$5 million additional funding was prioritised to metropolitan councils, regional cities, and peri-urban areas that have faced significant additional costs supporting outdoor dining, due to their size, location, geography or visitation.

For more information on local government support initiatives, visit [www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au](http://www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au)

### **Quotes attributable to Minister for Local Government, Shaun Leane**

*"Victorians have loved the outdoor dining areas we funded across the state this summer, and it's great that we can continue that support in Moonee Valley through a COVIDSafe autumn."*

*"Councils are key contributors to local economies and the Victorian Government is determined to give them the support they need to create jobs and support economic recovery in their communities."*

### **Quotes attributable to Danny Pearson MP Member for Essendon**

*"It's been great to see the life brought back to Essendon's amazing cafes, restaurants and bars this summer and it's fantastic we will see even more outdoor dining through the autumn."*

*"With this funding even more Moonee Valley hospitality businesses can take advantage of outdoor dining opportunities for a COVIDSafe autumn like no other."*