

## **“RoadMap to Dine In” Submission**

**Restaurant & Catering Australia**

**13 August 2021**



The NSW Government, in conjunction with councils across NSW, should be rolling out solutions to begin to welcome diners back into hospitality businesses with a RoadMap for hospitality business to return to dine in for vaccinated customers. R&CA is strongly supportive of incentives for vaccinated patrons and staff to return to hospitality venues as a first stage relaxation of restrictions in September 2021, much like those in Victoria during their 2020 lockdown. R&CA believes the previously tested scenario of predominantly outdoor dining with some indoor dining based on capacity is the most logical first step on the way forward to full reopening at 70-80% fully vaccinated.

Standardising outdoor dining rules, waiving outdoor dining fees, and making grant funds available to small businesses to shift their operations to predominantly outdoors will make it easier for hospitality venues to expand their seating onto footpaths, car parking spaces and other areas. While at the same time, testing limited indoor dining based on capacity, especially under vaccinated conditions.

R&CA's proposals to the NSW Government to make the transition to predominantly outdoor dining simpler are below:

### **1. Cash grants to support re-opening**

To supplement the existing cash grants that are available, hospitality businesses allowed to reopen will need significant further assistance to be able to meet the cost of re-opening including stock ordering and other upfront costs.

R&CA believes that hospitality venues should be able to access re-opening grants of \$15,000 for small business and \$25,000 per larger business under a hospitality specific top-up to previously approved businesses.

Previous grants have been eaten up by bills due during the lockdown, and the overwhelming majority of hospitality businesses will be cash broke when allowed to reopen.

## **2. Outdoor Dining Program**

To assist businesses in making the transition to outdoor dining under a Roadmap, R&CA believes that the below should be made available immediately to assist businesses with meeting the significant cost of moving to outdoor dining:

- Fast-tracking outdoor dining permits to ensure businesses have the permits to set up outside (72hr turn around) and consideration of making permanent licences granted during the pandemic.
- Restricting outdoor dining to 1 person per 2 square meters, rather than 1 person per 4sqm which may govern any early indoor dining rules.
- Having the State Government waive or meet the cost of permits to local governments (costs can range between \$15-\$75 dollars per sqm of outdoor space) meaning a licence for an outdoor space of 40sqm could be as high as \$3,000.
- Standardising rules for outdoor dining to assist operators with multiple and ensure compliance is simple.  
Turbocharging outdoor dining space by making un-used outdoor space available to nearby hospitality venues.
- Making grants available for cafes to purchase or hire outdoor equipment such as tables, chairs and umbrellas. R&CA believes this grant should be a flat fee of \$5,000 per business.

### **What would need to be done to turbocharge outdoor dining:**

- The NSW Government & Councils across NSW should provide free, temporary extended outdoor dining permits for up to 12 months for eligible hospitality venues to:
  - expand trading onto the footpath outside your premises or neighbouring premises.
  - expand trading using an on-street parking space immediately in front of your business and adjoining businesses.
  - join with neighbouring businesses to take over sections of on-street car parking, footpaths and (in some cases) street space.
  - join with neighbouring businesses to expand into a laneway adjacent to your business.
- They will also need to waive liquor licence fees and processing times associated with expanding the footprint of the business.