

## 12.1 Policy P402 Alfresco Dining - Fast Tracking and Fee Waiver

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### Summary

Councillor Mary Choy submitted the following Notice of Motion prior to the Council Agenda Briefing held 15 March 2022.

### Notice of Motion Recommendation

That Council:

1. Approves the relaxation of the requirements and guidelines of policy P402 Alfresco Dining, on a case by case basis, in order to allow alfresco dining to take place outside businesses, subject to adequate footpath width always being maintained for safe unobstructed pedestrian access along footpaths, as determined by the City.
2. Authorise the CEO to fast-track alfresco dining applications, within 14 days of receipt, subject to all necessary information being received.
3. Endorse a variation to the 2021/22 adopted Fees and Charges Schedule to waive the application and associated fees for alfresco dining for the remainder of the current financial year.
4. Request the CEO to make contact with local hospitality businesses to advise them of the initiative once endorsed.

### Background

Councillor Mary Choy submitted a Notice of Motion regarding Policy P402 Alfresco Dining – Fast Tracking and Fee Waiver. The reasons for the motion given are as follows:

1. At a Special Council Meeting in April 2020, Council endorsed the Local Community Response and Relief Package in response to the COVID-19 crisis, which included a suite of measures to assist local ratepayers during the pandemic.
2. At the June 2020 Ordinary Council Meeting, Council endorsed relaxation of the requirements and guidelines of policy P402 Alfresco Dining, on a case by case basis, in order to allow alfresco dining to take place outside local businesses. Alfresco fees and trading permit fees were also waived until 31 January 2021.
3. With the pandemic's increased momentum in Western Australia this year, outdoor dining options for residents and visitors alike have gained popularity. Alfresco dining doesn't just enable hospitality venues to trade safely and sustain their operations during the continuing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, but can make significant contributions to the visual appeal and atmosphere of public and private spaces within the City. Enabling local hospitality businesses to expand their dining services will create more active vibrant streets, increasing the likelihood of repeat visitation and increased spending in the area. All of this ensures our local businesses not just continue to survive but continue to thrive, whilst meeting community expectations when social restrictions are in effect.

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4. The City's applicable fees for alfresco dining, which as outlined in the 2021/22 Fees and Charges Schedule start at between \$150-\$250 for the initial application and then \$60 per chair (excl. GST), is an extra expense for local hospitality businesses during an already difficult period, which some simply cannot afford to take up.
5. Our local business ratepayers need to see their Council continuing to respond to their needs with these types of initiatives offering targeted support during difficult economic times. Up to approximately 100 food businesses could potentially have alfresco in some form and benefit from this relaxing, fast tracking and fee waiver measure.

### Comment

Council endorsed relaxation of the requirements and guidelines for alfresco dining, on a case by case basis in June 2020 and alfresco dining permit fees were waived until 31 January 2021. The City is not aware of exact numbers of businesses that took up this offer, as knowing the guidelines were relaxed, they may not have made an application.

The City can facilitate fast tracking of applications and publicity around advising local businesses of the relaxation should it be approved.

Fees for alfresco dining were previously waived until 31 January 2021. Those businesses with existing Alfresco licences are paid up for the current 2021/2002 financial year. If fees are to be waived until the end of the 2021/2022 financial year, the City would need to administer refunds pro-rata to those business who are already paid up until the end of financial year.

There are a number of food businesses to which this could apply. Including those with existing alfresco licences, there could be around 100 food businesses which could potentially have alfresco in some form. In reality, the number is likely to be less than this as areas may not necessarily be on Council land (negating an alfresco licence).

There are no obvious concerns with this motion. Alfresco Dining in the City will continue to be required to comply with the provisions of policy P402, primarily intended to maintain a safe environment.

### Consultation

Nil.

### Policy and Legislative Implications

City of South Perth Public Places and Local Government Property Local Law 2011  
Policy P402 Alfresco Dining

### Financial Implications

The costs of this motion include refunding portions of licence fees already received and officer time in administering it.

**Key Risks and Considerations**

<b>Risk Event Outcome</b>	<b>Health / Injury</b> Refers to the injurious effect upon a person as a consequence of a risk event occurring - ranging from minor (requiring no first aid treatment) through to loss of life at its most extreme
<b>Risk rating</b>	Medium
<b>Mitigation and actions</b>	This will be mitigated by ensuring the Alfresco Dining Policy provisions are maintained.

**Strategic Implications**

This matter relates to the following Strategic Direction identified within Council's [Strategic Community Plan 2020-2030](#):

Strategic Direction:	Economy
Aspiration:	A thriving City activated by attractions and opportunities that encourage investment and economic development
Outcome:	2.1 Local Business
Strategy:	2.1.3 Encourage and support local business and employment

**Attachments**

Nil