

11 March 2021

## **New support for local businesses**

A new Business Use of Footpaths Policy has been adopted by Warrumbungle Shire Council to support local businesses. Applications for these approvals will be free of charge until 30 June 2022.

“Across the Shire there are many businesses that could have lovely outdoor dining settings, display signs, or have products from their stores placed on the footpath outside their shopfronts,” said Warrumbungle Shire Council Mayor Councillor Ambrose Doolan. “Having these displays on footpaths encourages people to enter stores or stop and dine in, enhancing a vibrant and welcoming atmosphere within our towns.”

“To promote the use of footpath space outside stores while maintaining clear public access, a new Business Use of Footpaths policy was recently introduced. In line with the new policy, Council is encouraging local stores to provide outdoor dining experiences or display items on footpaths, and to have not-for-profit organisations display or sell items on the footpaths in town.”

“Until 30 June 2022 the application fees for a Section 68 Approval for business use of footpaths will be waived. These applications normally cost a total of \$240 so this is a great opportunity for businesses to get an application in free of charge to use the footpath space outside their stores. Businesses that are currently displaying items on the footpath must reapply under the new policy.”

“This support for local businesses is great news after years of drought and then the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Cr Doolan.

Each application will be assessed on merit, in particular ensuring there is sufficient space on the footpath for movement of pedestrians. Application forms, guidelines and the new policy are on Council’s website under the Environment, Public Health and Businesses section of the Resident Services tab.

“Council is encouraging businesses who wish to create an outdoor dining experience or display items on the footpath to apply now,” concluded Cr Doolan.

For more information contact the Environment and Development Services department on (02) 6849 2000.

**Media: Leeanne Ryan | (02) 6849 2000**