

# Councillor Cabada - MoN - Removal of outdoor dining fees to support business, activation and city vibrancy

Tuesday, 27 January 2026  
Council

**Council Member**  
Councillor Alfredo Cabada

Public

**Contact Officer:**  
Jo Podoliak, Director City  
Community

## MOTION ON NOTICE

**Councillor Alfredo Cabada will move a motion and seek a seconder for the matter shown below to facilitate consideration by the Council:**

'That Council:

1. Notes that outdoor dining plays a critical role in activating streets, increasing passive surveillance, supporting local hospitality businesses, and enhancing the liveability and vibrancy of the Adelaide CBD.
2. Notes that hospitality businesses continue to face sustained cost pressures, including rent, wages, utilities, insurance, and compliance costs, and that outdoor dining permit fees represent an ongoing financial burden on compliant operators.
3. Notes that previous Councils have waived or reduced outdoor dining fees during periods of economic pressure in order to support business viability and stimulate economic activity within the city.
4. Notes that removing unnecessary barriers and costs to business is consistent with Council's strategic objectives relating to economic development, city activation, and a thriving CBD.
5. Requests that the CEO prepare a report to Council by 24 March 2026 on the permanent removal of outdoor dining permit fees for compliant hospitality businesses within the City of Adelaide.
6. Requests that the report include:
  - a) The current revenue generated from outdoor dining permit fees.
  - b) The financial impact of permanently removing those fees.
  - c) Options for implementation, including timing and any transitional arrangements.
  - d) Any implications for public safety, accessibility, pedestrian movement, and amenity.
  - e) Examples of comparable approaches adopted by other Australian capital city councils.
7. Notes that any removal of fees would apply only to businesses that:
  - a) Comply with Council's outdoor dining guidelines and permit conditions.
  - b) Maintain safe and equitable pedestrian access, including disability access.
  - c) Requests that the outcomes of the report be considered through the appropriate committee and budget processes, with a view to implementation as soon as practicable if supported by Council.'

## ADMINISTRATION COMMENT

1. Information regarding outdoor dining fees will be presented to Council as part of the 2026/27 Annual Business Plan and Budget process, along with all fees and charges.
2. In response to point 6 of the Motion:
  - 2.1 In the last financial year (2024/25), outdoor dining fees generated \$567,000.
  - 2.2 There would be a direct income reduction of an equivalent amount in the 2026/27 budget if outdoor dining fees were waived.
  - 2.3 If Council resolves to waive or alter outdoor dining permit fees during the 2026/27 Annual Business Plan and Budget process, Administration expects the change could be implemented and communicated ahead of the annual permit renewal date of 1 September 2026.
  - 2.4 As the Motion does not seek to alter the Outdoor Dining Guidelines or permit conditions, significant impacts on public safety and pedestrian access are not anticipated.
  - 2.5 Updated benchmarking information in relation fee rates and models in metro and capital city councils will be provided to Council.
3. Should Council resolve to support the proposed Motion, Administration will prepare a report for the City Finance and Governance Committee scheduled for 17 March 2026. The report will include all points referenced within the proposed Motion regarding outdoor dining fees.

Should the motion be carried, the following implications of this motion should be considered. Note any costs provided are estimates only – no quotes or prices have been obtained:	
Public consultation	Not Applicable
External consultant advice	Not Applicable
Legal advice / litigation (eg contract breach)	Not Applicable
Impacts on existing projects	Not Applicable
Budget reallocation	Not Applicable
Capital investment	Not Applicable
Staff time in preparing the workshop / report requested in the motion	Not Applicable
Other	Not Applicable
Staff time in receiving and preparing this administration comment	To prepare this administration comment in response to the motion on notice took approximately 1 hour.

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- END OF REPORT -