

Uralla Shire Council

Expression of Interest for the Streets as Shared Spaces Program

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Overview

Uralla Shire Council submits an Expression of Interest for the NSW Government's *Streets as Shared Spaces Program* to support a trial to increase outdoor dining and facilitate street activities by businesses on Council owned roads in the Uralla Shire within the Uralla and Bundarra Central Business Districts.

The objective of the proposed projects is to revitalise the public spaces and support economic recovery and overall community wellbeing. The trial projects will activate the public space by increasing accessibility, connection, and will facilitate and partner with local businesses and the Uralla Shire community to increase attraction and amenity of the public space. Key components of the projects will include:

- Creation of parklet outdoor dining space
- Increase accessibility through footpath upgrade works
- Reshaping and plantings of garden 'blisters' for increased safety and beautification of the public space
- Installation of additional bespoke street furniture in heritage style
- Tree planting in line with *Greener Places* and *Better Placed* NSW Government initiatives
- Decorative lighting
- Sealing of asphalt access areas
- Development of traffic management plans to facilitate business street activities through temporary street closures (for business activation events such as outdoor dining and markets)
- Public art

Proposed Projects

1 Uralla Township Central Business District

Council proposes a trial to increase outdoor dining and facilitate street activities by businesses on Council owned roads within the Uralla township CBD.

The key components of the activities to be trialled in Uralla are outlined in detail below.

Project Elements

- **Creation of parklets for outdoor dining**

Council is proposing to create several parklets within the Uralla CBD to extend the footpath area into several parking areas and/or within the existing footpath space.

It is proposed to utilise these parklets for outdoor dining areas for local hospitality businesses. The parklets will better utilise the existing public space by providing defined and/or additional space and amenities for visitors and patrons of local businesses. It is anticipated that this will add vibrancy to the central business area and encourage increased visitation and expenditure at business offerings.

Council has identified several locations for the trial including outside the local brewery and heritage Salvation Army building, shown in image 2 (below) and image 3 (over the page).



Image 1: Example of parklet outdoor dining space to be trialled in the Uralla CBD.



Image 2: Proposed location for parklet outdoor dining area

The existing wide footpaths will enable increased foot traffic adjacent to the parklets without the users being crowded.

The visual appeal of the parklets themselves will also revitalise the CBD, by increasing visibility and appeal of local businesses and services on offer.

Pedestrian safety infrastructure will be installed adjacent to parklets to define a physical barrier between the parklet space and the footpath/road.

Parklets may also be utilised for bicycle parking space, thereby encouraging additional forms of activity and transport within the CBD.



Image 3: Proposed location for parklet outdoor dining area.

- **Footpath works for disability access and pedestrian safety infrastructure**

Council proposes to undertake works to the footpaths to improve footpath condition and levels to improve accessibility and facilitate use for outdoor dining. Council has identified key points to address in the trial, being:

- Levels on the west side at 55 Bridge Street; and
- Footpath connection through colonnade on the east side adjacent 84 Bridge Street to the car parking area (shown in image 4 below.)

Pedestrian safety infrastructure and works to improve crossing points will be undertaken. The proposed works will improve drain coverage between footpaths and garden beds ('blisters'). Image 5 below and image 6 over the page illustrate existing drain covers.



Image 4: Footpath connection through colonnade on east side of Bridge Street, connecting CBD to car parking area.



Image 5: Existing blister garden and pedestrian crosswalk in the Uralla CBD. Drainage cover between footpath and blister to be upgraded to improve accessibility and safety.

- **Reshaping and replanting garden ‘blisters’**

Council proposes to reshape (if required) and replant the garden blisters along Bridge Street.

Works would include repainting garden bed edges and renewing existing garden bed ‘blisters’ to enhance access and visual amenity for enjoyable outdoor dining settings and customer experience.

Image 5 (from previous page) and image 6 (right) illustrate existing blister garden conditions.

Renewing garden blisters will improve the visual character, provide an attractive CBD for pedestrians, as well as encourage walking and overall visitation.

- **Installation of street furniture**

Council proposes placement of additional street furniture to provide pedestrians areas to rest and relax within the CBD thereby creating greater vibrancy and economic activity.

Images 6 and 7 show existing heritage style, bespoke (Uralla Shire branded) furniture installed in the Uralla CBD along Bridge Street which Council procured two decades ago. The furniture has been regularly maintained and is in excellent condition.

- **Street tree plantings**

Council proposes additional tree planting along Bridge Street in line with the Greener Places and Better Placed NSW Government initiatives.

Additional street trees will make the CBD more walkable, provide shade and reduce ambient temperatures, and improve the visual character of the main street.



Image 6: Existing bespoke street furniture in the Uralla CBD (quantity to be increased) and garden ‘blister’.

Drainage cover between footpath and blister to be upgraded to improve accessibility and safety.



Image 7: Existing bespoke heritage street furniture.

- **Lighting**

Council proposes installation of decorative street lighting, subject to compliance and approvals to the necessary traffic regulations.

Additional lighting will provide a safer environment at night, encourage evening foot traffic and increased trading hours by local businesses for a mix of day and night time activities, strengthening the local economy.

Any additional lighting will be decorative and consistent to the heritage style to maintain visual attraction and character.

- **Sealing of asphalt access areas**

Works will be undertaken to seal asphalt access areas to improve parking pavement.

Traffic management plans will also be developed to facilitate street activities by businesses on Council owned roads.

- **Traffic Management Plans**

Prepare traffic management plans for temporary road closures for community events such as markets or street activities on Council owned roads:

- Hill Street; and
- Salisbury Street.

Project Location

Council proposes the trial to increase outdoor dining and facilitate street activities by businesses on Council owned roads as set out above within the Uralla township CBD, on Bridge Street and Hill Street between Salisbury Street and King Street, as shown in image 8 below.

Areas outlined in red indicate project activities (such as parklets, footpath upgrades, lighting, garden ‘blisters’, pedestrian safety infrastructure, etc.) Areas outlined in blue indicate proposed locations for the development of traffic management plans to facilitate temporary road closures for community events and street activities.



Image 8: Street Activities Locations in Uralla Township CBD

Bridge Street is the main thoroughfare which runs through the town on which many hospitality and retail businesses operate.

Related Projects

Council is concurrently undertaking projects delivered through the Public Spaces Legacy Program which will develop two parks located on either end of the Uralla CBD (Pioneer Park located on the southern/western end and The Glen/Rotary Park, located on the northern/eastern end of the CBD.)

The two projects complement the objectives of the other by upgrading the park facilities and increasing walkability and the connection between the two spaces.

Council is also nominating for the Festival of Place Sumer Night Fund Program to conduct three activation events to occur early in 2022.

Proposed Project Cost

Council proposes to allocate \$400,000 to deliver the projects in the Uralla CBD as outlined above.

2 Bundarra Township Central Business District

Council proposes a trial to install heritage and art attractions on Council owned roads to increase pedestrian visitor traffic and amenity within the Bundarra township CBD.

The key components of the activities to be trialled in Bundarra are as follows:

- Installation of public art; and
- Installation of heritage and tourist information.

These components will provide points of connection, foster a sense of attachment and strengthen economic activity and social infrastructure. The project details are outlined in further detail below.

Project Elements

- ***Installation of additional public art***

Public art plays an important role in creating a strong sense of place. Council proposes to collaborate with local and/or regional artists and collectives to deliver public art which reflects, recognises the importance of and celebrates the local heritage, history and traditional culture.

Additional public art will increase visual character of the town, create places of interest and will encourage pedestrian visitation and access. Council recognises that public art which connects to the place will resonate more strongly with visitors, and will further encourage visitors to stay or extend their visit, strengthening economic activity and the social infrastructure of the town.

- ***Installation of heritage and tourist information***

Council proposes to install heritage and tourist information signs to detail the Bundarra history, places of interest and local attractions. Signs will be installed on the existing Lions Club structure which is currently well-placed for maximum viewing.

Providing heritage and tourist information will provide numerous benefits including increasing visitor and pedestrian traffic and strengthening the local economy.

- ***Installation of Community Street Store Structure***

A Community Street Store allows local groups and not-for-profit organisations to raise funds or awareness or their activities. It provides a vital opportunity to support the sustainability of these locally-run groups and builds community connections while providing a point of activation on the main street.

Project Location

The proposed project location is within the Bundarra Central Business District on Bendemeer Street, between Souter and Bowline Streets as shown in the image below.



Image 9: Project Activities Location in Bundarra Township

Specific installation locations will be confirmed when projects are fully scoped.

Proposed Project Cost

Council proposes to allocate \$100,000 to deliver the projects in the Bundarra CBD as outlined above.

Letters of Support

- Uralla Shire Council resolved at its Ordinary meeting held 26 October 2021 to submit an EOI for the Streets as Shared Spaces Program as outlined in this Expression of Interest [35.10/21].
- The Hon Adam Marshall MP
- The Hon Barnaby Joyce MP
- Uralla Shire Council General Manager Kate Jessep

Delivery Timeframes

Trial projects will commence by April 2022 and be completed by September 2022.

Individual project delivery dates will be confirmed when projects are fully scoped.

Performance Indicators

Council will measure the performance of its trial projects through the indicators set out in the table below:

Indicator	Measurement	Target
Street tree plantings	Quantity	3-5 additional mature street trees
Plantings at ground level (excluding trees)	Quantity	13 garden beds updated
Public space improved or made accessible	Area in m ²	400
Additional street furniture	Quantity	6 sites
New public art	Quantity	1 – Uralla 1 – Bundarra
Additional decorative lighting	Quantity in linear m	200
Quantity of defined outdoor dining	Area in m ²	75
Project partners engaged	Quantity	TBC
Employment opportunities – project delivery	Additional hours worked	1680
Creative worker employment opportunities	Additional hours worked	50
Employment opportunities – local business	Additional hours worked (business reporting)	Increase
Increase in foot traffic	Quantity	50 per day
Increase in cyclists	Quantity	10 per day