

Summarised community parklet feedback report

Summary of responses as at Friday 19 February 2021

Response count

	Count	Percent
Complete	2,501	95.8%
Partial	101	4.2%
Total	2,602	100%

Have you dined in a parklet in Yarra?

Value	Percent	Count
Yes	93.00%	2,235
No	7.00%	152
Totals		2,387

Do you live in Yarra?

Value	Percent	Count
Yes	84.000%	2,174
No	13.50%	409
Totals		2,583

How did you travel to the parklet? (Tick all that apply)

Value	Percent	Count
Walk	79.00%	1,903
Bicycle	21.00%	504
Public transport	18.00%	432
Car as driver	9.00%	224
Ride share (e.g. Uber, Ola, DiDi)	9.00%	206
Car as passenger	4.00%	108
Other active transport (e.g. skateboard, scooter)	1.00%	22
Taxi	1.00%	16
Other	0.00%	0

Where and how far away from the parklet did you park your car?

How easily did you find a parking space?

Easily
I parked around the corner, very convenient and no trouble at all
Parked a couple spaces up from restaurant. Super easy, there's still so many car spaces on and around Rathdowne street!

Not too far and more than happy to park fourth et away and walk Loved the outdoor dining and want it to stay!
Parked on Easy street. Was not hard to find a space. I drive around for work as a sales rep and have not found parking any different since the installations have been installed.
Parking in and around smith street has always been a hassle, but since Yarra introduced the parklets I've seen no difference
Quite easily. Happy to find parking a little further away if it means there is more space and community atmosphere
It was easy enough. There was no real difference between finding a parking space before the parklets where around
It was hard to find a car park
Street parked, normal distance from the venue. Parking is often difficult around the Fitzroy area but achievable. If parking was more difficult, we would just ride share there always.
Never had to park more than a block away. Easy to find a parking space
Parking during peak times definitely a challenge. Have had times when no parking available at all, when normally wouldn't be an issue.
Incredibly hard, after multiple loops of the vicinity found a park - however I don't mind I'd rather business expand patron capacity and as a punter I love sitting on the street watching the world go by .
I parked just down the street and it's not usually hard to find a park at all on smith street or Brunswick street. I don't believe the parklet's have impacted parking as much as I thought it would.
I had to park a considerable distance after an extended period trying to find a parking spot, which was frustrating, and if I had not found a park almost immediately after reaching this point of frustration I would have decided to not attend Frederic, and not had a meal in Yarra at. I would have tried another restaurant in another council
blocks away. Parking in yarra is now a nightmare! There is nowhere to stop and pick up anything quickly. Some of the positions are horrible. The one on Dight St for the Bendigo Hotel obstructs traffic badly and causes congestion in the middle of the intersection as no-one can pass.
Difficult. My vehicle is over 2.3m tall as required for my work. I would like to see some parking reserved for taller vehicles as there is plenty of off street car parking that only accepts less than 2.2m

Would you have dined at this business if it weren't for the parklet?

Value	Percent	Count
Yes, I was going to dine here regardless of the parklet	36.00%	877
No, I went especially for the parklet	49.00%	1,169
Unsure	15.00%	357
	Totals	2,403

What do you like about this parklet?

Tick all that apply or write your own

Value	Percent	Count
Outdoor dining is safer than indoor dining (COVID-19)	80.00%	2,062
Vibe/atmosphere	84.00%	2,150
Design, look and feel of the parklet	68.00%	1,746
Something new/different	55.00%	1,416
Supporting local businesses	83.00%	2,118
Better use of public space	84.00%	2,147
Other	7.00%	176

"Other" comments

Can sit outside with my dog

Nothing

Accessible for my friend who uses a wheelchair

Cars take up too much inner-city public space, this is 10000x better

Brings the community onto the street and gives a vibrant life to the suburb

Didn't like it. Too noisy, dusty and too close to traffic

Enjoy being outside in the fresh air. Gives more seats to keep the businesses running.

I am not in favour of parklets in side streets near residential areas

I don't think parklets should be allowed on a side street with residential properties close by

I have dogs and need to sit outside. I am therefore able to sit with friends with my dogs. Neighbours need these 'meeting places' to connect in these uncertain times and meet every day to 'check in' During 2020 Cheeky Monkey Cafe kept us SANE and connected, it was a real life saver for many single people.

I feel more comfortable and less anxious sitting outside because of COVID but I also prefer fresh air and space, etc.

Not much to like. Generally, poorly designed and constructed from cheap materials. They look unsightly and have become targets for tagging

On a street like Peel parklets are great. I would not consider dining in a parklet on Smith or Brunswick street, too near cars, too smelly, too awful

Right on the tram stop. This is too dangerous especially for an elderly person. Not enough room for people getting off and on at the same time.

i don't, smokers are invading my sidewalk. Will you pay for my chemo?

a bit disappointing that this cuts into a busy bike lane

Erected on a loading zone and there is unsafe of unloading of goods

It is on a residential only street and has caused great harm to all the surrounding resident's ability to conduct their day to day lives, sleep, open windows in their house and spend time in their gardens. It has also meant that residents feel unsafe in their homes

Well the council didn't really offer much except a couple coloured blocks. Rouleur added their own tables and barriers which are nice

takes up valuable short term parking spaces

Thinking about vehicle traffic, how safe did you feel while in the parklet?

Value	Percent	Count
Very safe	89.00%	2,134
Somewhat safe	9.00%	208
Neutral	1.00%	31
Somewhat unsafe	1.00%	17
Very unsafe	0.00%	10
	Totals	2,400

Comments

Very safe

There are a number of parklets in Gertrude St and they are well constructed and easy to see by passing cars, and so it seems unlikely that a car would crash into them.

I liked that their parklet was fully fenced in and they have integrated the concrete blocks really well. I have felt the most safe in theirs, especially considering it's on a relatively busy rd (Smith st)

Concrete bollards are well placed, less cars in general, people travelling at a slower pace and taking it all in.

It's no different than being on the footpath

I think they're a fantastic addition to so many communities. They bring an exciting, vibrant and friendly atmosphere to so many streets across Melbourne. It can be something good that comes from COVID!

Somewhat safe

It still felt like it was on the road, if there was a bit more established separation between traffic and dining it's be better. Better than not having it though

It is easily visible to drivers

Solid barrier between myself and cars, car going relatively slowly.

Neutral

I didn't think about it at the time, but a car could have easily ran us over while dining

Not something I considered as an issue.

Somewhat unsafe

Most of the parklets are made of ply wood it seems and I don't think patrons would survive too well if a car plowed into them. Perhaps more pink concrete blocks. Or safety standards could be implemented

Fumes from cars

Very unsafe

Too close to the tram and traffic. Exhaust fumes and traffic noise was awful

Between bicycles, cars and trams, it feels like an accident waiting to happen.

How accessible did you find the parklet?

Value	Percent	Count
Very accessible	78.00%	1,877
Somewhat accessible	15.00%	365
Neutral	5.00%	110
Somewhat inaccessible	2.00%	36
Very inaccessible	0.00%	6
	Totals	2,394

Comments

Very accessible

Well spaced tables, open end on footpath side, mobile ramp for wheelchair access in use

I have a physical disability and it was fine. The step up would have been an issue for anyone in an electric chair but otherwise good

As a wheelchair user I enjoyed the extra seating space.

My friend in a wheel chair is now able to visit more places as the parklets make everything more wheelchair accessible

Somewhat accessible

We have young children and use a pram to transport them. The park let wasn't accessible for the pram, but we were able to take the baby out and leave the pram nearby

It was fine for us, however there was a step to get from the kerb to the parklet so no accessibility for people using wheelchairs. It was also unclear first where to enter the parklet.

A step is a minor inconvenience. It is still considered safe.

Neutral

No more or less difficult than inside cafes.

Although the space itself is accessible for diners, it does block off a through route for walkers somewhat. If this particular space was permanent, it should have tables only on the sides of the laneway and a wider walkway down the middle

Somewhat inaccessible

Parklets in general are often not accessible to everyone, often on a slope or the wooden platforms have a step rather than a ramp for wheelchair access.

Steps. Too congested.

Very inaccessible

A danger to the old, frail, impaired, because of step and trip hazards.

There is huge step up which has no warning tape or paint and is an obvious trip and fall hazard (I saw a couple of people stumble

By creating parklets we've had to temporarily remove some car parking spaces.

What impact do you think this has had in this location?

Value	Percent	Count
Very positive impact	65.00%	1,682
Some positive impact	12.00%	305
No impact	12.00%	320
Some negative impact	5.00%	140
Very negative impact	3.00	67
Unsure	2.00%	60
	Totals	2,574

Comments

Very positive impact

It is great to see 20 or 30 people sitting outside rather than 2 or 3 cars in the same spot. It enlivens the area and makes it a drawcard.

Opinion 1: Removing carspots isn't a bad thing, there are still plenty of parking spaces in and around the area, if people have to walk an extra 5-10min that's no big deal, Opinion 2: Public transport is highly available in Yarra, Opinion 3: Hospitality in general has a lot of catching up to do and for most the parklets are playing a huge role in that.

Reduce cars on the road, promote public transport and walking/cycling. Great vibes for the Yarra council area. Safer dining in terms of being covid safe

These parklets are doing absolute wonders for Yarra!! I will be shattered to see them go. I've not heard anyone complaining about reduced parking - Yarra is so accessible by PTV or cycling or by foot.

Spaces are utilised for much greater public benefit than for car parks. A space that might have allowed one person to drive and park is now allowing a dozen or more patrons to enjoy outdoor dining. Adds to vibrant atmosphere of post-lockdown Yarra.

Some positive impact

some positive, some negative. it's often very hard to find parking in yarra which may frustrate some, but if it pushes more people to public and active transport, i'm all for it.

Although we parked opposite the cafe due to high availability of car spaces, we would have been happy to park on one of the side streets and walk. Less cars around parklets feel safer.

Cremorne has too much traffic, so removing non-permit on-street spaces will hopefully discourage workers from driving there. If we did this everywhere in Cremorne the positive impact would be large

These parklets have brought the streets to life and encouraged us to dine at other restaurants we wouldn't have otherwise chosen

Anything that encourages people to find alternate methods of transportation (rather than cars) is a plus in my books. Yarra is well serviced by trams and buses, and even though we could do with more bike lanes, we do have a reasonable network.

No impact

More people now walk and it's safer for diners with less traffic on the road and good for the environment. Could make Brunswick Street into an Acland Street

There is still ample parking in the area

Some negative impact
People may be less likely to stop and walk in, but most of the customers probably would just find another spot to park!
It can be harder to find a car park but that's what you should expect in the inner city. Walk to where you want to go instead of driving
Surely any idiot realises the negative impact duh! Take away parking space equals less parking space !more congestion and less parking for people with homes in surrounding streets
No real consideration given to surrounding neighbours. We were not even given the courtesy of a note in the letterbox advising what was happening.
I understand this can negatively impact drivers because parking is a hot commodity, but I'd love to see something like this encourage people to think about using public transport or share rides, etc.
There is limited parking in the City of Yarra and although the venue may have enjoyed the benefits of extra customers, other businesses rely on the parking spaces may have found it to be detrimental for their customers. Also challenging fir residents if their road is closed and puts extra traffic onto other side streets
Very negative impact
Residential car parking spaces are being taken up by non- permit vehicles and the lack of enforcement by Yarra Council is a well known fact amongst patrons.
As a person with a disability who can't rely on public transport. The reduction in spaces make it even harder to access various areas of the community.
Drivers double parking. Fighting for parking spaces. Increased traffic than before covid 19.
we need to keep every single car park
People cluster on the street and disregard social distancing; it's just an outside stand-up bar. It causes congestion for passing pedestrians, and makes crossing the road hazardous - as do all of these structures
Noise pollution has been terrible.
Unsure
Logically I expect it's harder to find parking, but I haven't seen anyone upset about it, and I'm not aware of people circling the block, haven't heard it discussed. Maybe people understand there is less parking and so Uber or public transport it to cafes now?
I haven't heard reports of people complaining about reduced number of parking spaces but given parking is a hot issue in the area I assume it must have an impact. But may encourage people to stay local and support nearby businesses
Did not answer
Still heaps of parking in this area.
What other positive or negative impacts (if any) have you experienced with this parklet? (Optional)
The parklets look great and lend a festive atmosphere. I'd really like to see them stay.
Loud unruly noise in close proximity to houses. People wandering the street with alcohol, urinating on the fences of houses, drinking and doing drugs on house verandas, entering properties to drink from taps, unruly noise and behaviour up until 1 am.
All of the parklets are exceedingly ugly and as my summary below articulates, that is a very bad look for CoY

I think it's a great initiative for some very hard hit businesses. Great to see them reestablish, street getting its vibe back. Just can be a little frustrating getting a park in your own st. If temporary happy

It allows outdoor late night drinking in conflict with the planning permit and liquor licensing conditions. Meals are not the reason that people come to this venue. A permit has been granted for a roof-top dining area with very strict conditions. The parklet circumvents these conditions.

The parklet is an eyesore and has had a negative aesthetic impact on the surrounding area. It appears to have been very cheaply and haphazardly assembled. It is not cleaned and maintained with litter and dog faeces constantly found in and around parklet

Great atmosphere, nice community vibe

positives - great that business can operate safely during Covid

I love how some business have gone out of their way to really make it an extension of their indoor spaces - it really adds to the visual appeal of Smith St.

How likely are you to dine in this parklet or another parklet in Yarra in the future?

Value	Percent	Count
Very likely	95.00%	2,268
Somewhat likely	3.00%	76
Neutral	1.00%	19
Somewhat unlikely	1.00%	14
Very unlikely	1.00%	14
Totals		2,391

Parklets are currently scheduled to be removed from 31 March 2021. Would you like to see parklets in Yarra in the future?

Value	Percent	Count
Yes, on a permanent basis (year-round)	75.00%	1,932
Yes, on a temporary basis (during spring/summer months only)	20.00%	514
Yes, on a temporary basis (only if COVID-19 restrictions limit indoor dining)	3.00%	67
No	2.00%	58
Totals		2,571

Comments

Yes, on a permanent basis (year-round)

amazing atmosphere, more capacity helps businesses continue after our long lockdown, more room to sit in places that normally are mostly standing

Encourage active transport, use of outdoor space. Can leave footpaths clear for use by pedestrians while still giving businesses more customers

I think they are a great use of space and are a fantastic way to add another layer to Melbourne's rich hospitality culture that boosts support for local business and helps create a sense of community after a year that left Melbourne a bit fractured.

Brings so much more atmosphere to the area. Prevents being crowded within venues. Better for both physical and mental wellbeing to spend more time outdoors. Allows businesses to increase their customer numbers/profits after a very difficult year.

I'm not sure I'll ever feel as comfortable with indoor dining as pre-COVID. It gives those of us an opportunity to sit outside if we want to. The prior footpath seating was not enough, it's just really obvious now when you see the sheer amount of people that are sitting outside.

While I love the idea and would like to see them long term, I expect outdoor dining to be less popular in winter, and disused parklets may fall into disrepair and "tarnish the brand" of parklets overall.
Yes, on a temporary basis (only if COVID-19 restrictions limit indoor dining)
Parklets are impacting the ability for people to find parking spaces, which were already very limited in Yarra.
As a local resident the extra outdoor space in a residential area is unpleasant - smokers and drinkers late every night. Would prefer they remain within the venue.
Covid doesn't go in March and the vaccine won't be fully rolled out. We need to give businesses the best opportunity to keep operating in a covid safe manner.
The take up parking space and some cover bike lanes. Not all of them are well designed. Also they seem to be draining revenue from the council
It's probably not necessary to be made permanent but certainly while the risk of COVID restrictions remain in place, they're very valuable. Keep them until end of 2021
No
Given traffic and parking difficulties I would avoid Yarra venues seeking places where accessibility is easier. Yarra makes it too difficult
They are unsightly, dangerous, obstruct the pedestrian footpath, of low use, occupy traffic parking, puts to much pressure on rate payers resident and visitor car parks.
They create a great vibe. We already dine outside in winter. Let's keep the parklets all year round.
ALL OFF THE ABOVE HORRIBLE IMPACT ON OUR LIVES. This has been a cookie cutter approach which did not consult residents that put business before community
We tolerated these shanty town eyesores because we were told they were temporary,
Any additional feedback?
I think the parklets create a great vibe and have actually revitalised many areas making the streets places for people rather than places for cars.
The loss of car parks (as a driver) has not been of a negative impact. The park let's are a great way to promote small businesses and certainly have a positive impact on the vibe of the Yarra areas.
Noise is an issue that needs consideration. The outdoor nightclubs etc have changed the environment quite a lot for neighbours and will be difficult to live with long term.
Well done to Yarra for supporting businesses during covid :) I would also like to add that some of the parklets do look a bit less safe/enticing, I am overall in favour of them but it would be good if there are clear guidance about how to make them safe (or if this guidance already exists, that it is made more publicly available?)
I am so happy to learn of this survey, and the opportunity that parklets may become ongoing. I didn't know they were called parklets. Thank you Yarra for measuring the parklets phenomenon, and for trialling them in 2020. It's a sobering reminder of COVID in our community, and an example of positive change from such a devastating situation. That's what I think of when I see parklets.
Parklets make venues more visible and appealing to foot traffic and give venues outdoor seating options. They're in areas with great public transport access so I don't see any negatives.
Thanks for all the work supporting businesses, the community, and setting the parklets up.
Noise levels increased and caused tension between cafe and tenants. Plus it was very annoying as a tenant.
The covers on the concrete blocks are very, very ugly and that is more than disappointing. CoY used to have a reputation as a municipality that nurtured arts & culture - not ugly nylon/concrete

plinths. CoM has rolled out a far more aesthetically pleasing response to the challenge and I'm disappointed that CoY didn't tackle it in a more creative manner.
Thanks Yarra Council. I think you're the best.
Not all spaces in front of restaurants/café are suitable for Parklets. Some are creating difficult pedestrian access when combined with already existing foot-path dining, pedestrians are also entitled to Covid safe access to past these sites
I worry about safety of diners. So close to cars and some park lets aren't too secure or strong enough to sustain a car breaking through
you've made sure that a residential corner is covered in smoke and swearing twenty and thirty somethings. Some of us have been paying rates for a few decades and would like to leave our house without going by the wharfs
I think the temporary nature of the parklets at the moment is awesome, but on some streets (i.e Gertrude Street) - I would encourage a more systematic review of movement, particularly with respect to cyclists having enough space between the trams and the edge of the parklets to ride
My main concern with Parklets is the creation of accessibility issues for thoroughfare on the footpath. I've observed quite a few extend their seating/tables into the footpath area (in-between the Parklet and the restaurant/cafe), and also it creates heavy traffic as waiters and staff need to cross the footpath frequently. This is a significant issue for wheelchair users, people with mobility issues, guide-dogs, or people with spatial-processing disorders. I totally support the Parklets, but there need to be enforced rules that keep sidewalks completely clear for these members of our community.
I can be somewhat cynical about Councils, but seeing these are a clear reminder that the council gives a s*** about local businesses, hospitality venues and the community more generally. They reflect very well on the Council and indicate a commitment to positively improve the local area.
Keeping the parklets permanently would benefit the community greatly, increased trade = more jobs and more money kept in the community. I'd say the challenge is to fairly balance permanency with businesses that missed out - there are some 'hole in the wall' places that got massive spaces, and other traders that got nothing. A minor rebalancing would be appropriate. Everyone wins.
the smoking section was right near the dining area it was disgusting
We had objected to footpath trading (outside our house) when it was first introduced outside the Tramway Hotel - but the City of Yarra did not even reply to our correspondence.
Please stop being so wowserish at Yarra, we saw this with your embarrassing efforts with Edinburgh Gardens. Try to understand the people who live here, I don't care if the toffs or the tree tores in their \$2m houses don't like seeing all the rambunctious youths on the street, the increased area offered to hospitality helps small business recover and to employ people. We should be proud of this. This is not Malvern, this is not Balwyn, this is a vibrant area. Keep it that way.
We are so disappointed that City of Yarra did not consult us on an issue that would so profoundly change our lives. We have not been able to sleep, socialise, open windows in our house or spend time in our garden, we are horrified this has happened in a heritage overplayed R1 zone. GNH already has a large beer garden. We residents have no relief. Also wanting to know why GNH have drinking tables on the footpath next to community bikes?
I am strongly against parklets in any side residential street as they will cause noise problems for nearby residents. Existing noise problems are already bad enough without making it worse.
I think it's important that a business can only consume space immediately in front of their place of business - or perhaps half of the next residence along. There appears to be some parklets that go along 3-4 residences which seems rather unfair and profit-grabbing.
The park let at the end of Cameron st is very inconvenient and a hazard given the only option is a thin street with cars parked - just plain dangerous at times. Not a great choice

Aesthetically awful. Limiting parking for residents, as they vie for spots with business patrons. Not enough disabled parking spaces.

The noise pollution is a real problem with these and they are not safe. I have seen so many bear misses.

I am a resident of Smith Street, my house has sat looking over the changing streetscape for many many years. The parklets brought life back to a ghost town and create so much atmosphere and community presence. We are blessed with great weather in Australia and it seems stupid to not make the most of it. For the sake of a couple of parking spots the right decision is absolutely to keep them. We need to promote alternatives to private car use and less available parking spaces is a great one. It has made me leave the car at home and opt for other options.