



The Hon Ray Williams MP

Member for Castle Hill

MEDIA RELEASE

16 January 2023

STREET PARTIES AND OUTDOOR DINING IN CASTLE HILL BRINGS COMMUNITY TOGETHER

Castle Hill has reimagined streets as places for people with their Australia Day Vibes project, which improved the local street environment as part of the Summer Fund program.

This project has received \$9,350.91 as part of a \$66 million NSW Government investment to kickstart the hospitality and events sector during and after the pandemic.

Member for Castle Hill Ray Williams said the programs spanned a range of initiatives including the Alfresco Restart Package, the Streets as Shared Spaces program, Your High Street and a range of other pop-up events and legislative changes to encourage events and activations on NSW streets.

“These projects provide improvements to how we use our public spaces, support local economies, and make our streets more attractive and welcoming for people,” Mr Williams said.

“This project is one of many that will activate and reimagine an under-utilised space and provide social, health and economic benefits to the local community.”

The project has seen The Hills Shire come alive with music and art on Australia Day. ‘Australia Day Vibes’ was a collection of 42 local artists staging 29 performances in locations across The Hills, including Castle Towers, Heritage Park, Norwest Lake, Glenorie Bakery and Grove Square (Stockland Mall) in Baulkham Hills on 26 January 2021.

A report assessing the impact of these measures across NSW found they led to more than 13,500 jobs including 2,800 hospitality workers and more than 530,000 attendees at pop-up and street activations spread across 300 events in 112 local government areas.

Minister for Cities Rob Stokes said temporary and permanent measures introduced since 2020 have transformed the way we use our streets and public spaces, breathing new life into our cities and town centres.

“The pandemic accelerated global trends that were already happening and we had to change too, transforming our Central Business Districts into Central Social Districts that encourage people to stay longer, and spend local,” Mr Stokes said.



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“That’s why we threw out the rule book, closing off NSW streets to cars and opening them up to people, creating thousands of jobs for the hospitality industry and bringing joy to millions who attended events or enjoyed a meal or a drink outside.”

“A good city is like a good party, the better it is the longer people want to stay which is why we’ve made many of the changes permanent.”

To view the full impact report, visit the link here.

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