

Green, pedestrian-friendly Bank Street upgrade promised for Adelaide CBD

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A fresh upgrade of one of Adelaide's busy city laneways, Bank Street, will boost greenery and outdoor dining opportunities, the city council and South Australian Government say.

A previous, temporary trial of wooden seating and planter boxes came under criticism, with suggestions the area became a haven for late-night drunks and was left strewn with rubbish.

Lord Mayor Martin Haese said this upgrade would be vastly better.

"What we have learnt is that quality wins every time," he said.

"This street will be greener, it will have wonderful lighting, it will be pedestrian friendly."

All the city lanes stretching from North Terrace through to the Central Market are getting a progressive makeover under a \$14.6 million project jointly funded by the council and the State Government.

Mr Haese said there were planning projections showing the makeover would boost daily pedestrian traffic by about a third, to a total of about 20,000 people.

"This is great for our city because it's part of the rejuvenation of Adelaide," he said.

Planning Minister John Rau said he was delighted local firm T & J Constructions had won the contract and the Bank Street work was expected to be finished before the end of the year.

"The old streetscape will disappear completely, we have something that's far more friendly to pedestrians and cyclists, but something that will still permit traffic to come through, albeit at reduced speeds," he said.

"We can expect to see more opportunities for outdoor dining."

The laneways project is also expected to boost the amount of public art in the precinct.

The upgrade will eventually transform the laneways corridor from Adelaide Railway Station, through Leigh and Bank streets, Topham Mall, Bentham and Pitt streets to the northern side of the produce market.

Last summer, Peel Street, between Hindley and Currie streets, was closed off to traffic at weekends to turn the area into a small bars hub.

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PHOTO: Bank Street's makeover is promised before the end of this year. (ABC News)

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PHOTO: John Rau and Martin Haese shake hands, as they announce Bank Street upgrade work is starting. (Twitter: John Rau)