

Council Policy – Mobile Food Vendors

Responsible Directorate	Development Services
Responsible Business Unit/s	Health, Building and Community Safety
Responsible Officer	Manager Health, Building and Community Safety
Affected Business Units	Facilities Statutory Planning

Objective

The objective of this Policy is to:

- Encourage the use of public places for outdoor Mobile Food Vendors as a means of place activation, enhancing community social interaction and public health wellbeing.
- Protect the interests of existing bricks and mortar food businesses and to consider the needs of all users of the area, including the safety of consumers and pedestrians.
- Support Vendors who provide high quality non-standard food options and/or whose vehicle presentation contributes to the character and energy of the area will be given priority.
- Support all food outlets, including mobile food vendors, to demonstrate that healthy and nutritious food options are part of the menu and to practice safe food handling in accordance with the *Food Act 2008*.

Scope

This policy applies to all mobile food vendors operating within the local government area, including food trucks, carts, and other temporary food vending setups.

Policy

Introduction

This policy informs officers when considering an application for a Trading in Public Places License issued under the Shires *Public Places and Local Government Property Local Law 2019*.

Mobile food vendors such as food trucks, coffee vans or other food serving vehicles provide food offerings to the community in a location that otherwise has limited options. This has the additional benefits of place activation and social cohesion. It is also an important aspect of this policy to protect the interests of existing food businesses in permanent 'bricks and mortar' buildings with contrasting financial costs to that of a mobile food vendor.

Applications

The Shire will consider the following as part of an assessment of an application for a mobile food van (Trading in Public Places Licence):

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1. Vehicle(s) shall be fully self-contained and mobile at all times;
2. All stock shall be kept within the confines of the vehicle;
3. The erection of structures or umbrellas are not permitted, unless otherwise approved;
4. No signs are allowed on road reserves except where attached to a vehicle;
5. The maximum stopping time in any one location is four hours if trading or 30 minutes if not trading;
6. No trading is permitted on any land under the control of Main Roads WA; and
7. Trading must not occur within 500 metres of any existing registered food business which offer for sale the same offerings, unless written permission has been obtained from the food business operator, or unless hours of operation are outside those offered by the existing business, to the satisfaction of the Shire.
8. Food vendors are to comply with all relevant state and local laws in relation to noise, parking, and traffic, etc.
9. Food vendors shall demonstrate that a healthy and nutritious option is available on the menu
10. Food vendors shall demonstrate compliance with the Food Act 2008 and Food Safety Standards.
11. Trading in the same location can occur once per week.

The online booking of a designated trading location for mobile food vendors can only occur once the vendor has been granted an annual Trading in Public Places License. A person issued an Itinerant food vendors license cannot book designated trading locations as they are limited to trading for the time a customer is making a purchase.

If a mobile food vendor wishes to trade in one location on a more permanent basis, it can be considered through avenues such as Council Policy 5.1.3 - Lease and Licence Management or the *Local Government Act 1995*.

Provisions for Itinerant Food Vendors

The above provisions apply as well as:

1. Only remain at a particular location for as long as there is a customer making a purchase. If there is no customer making a purchase, the permit holder must move on from that location as soon as practicable from the last transaction; and
2. The Shire does not permit the playing of music, or any other forms of noise to attract customers, whilst the mobile food vendor is stopped.

Definitions

Designated Trading Area means a Shire approved location for vendors to undertake mobile food vending in accordance with a valid Trading in Public Places License

Itinerant Food Vendor means a person who travels along a road looking for customers and who sells a product from a vehicle which stops temporarily to serve customers who stop the vendor or come to the vendor whilst the vehicle is stopped.

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Mobile Food Vending means the use of the public places for preparing and dispensing food products by Mobile Food Vendors.

Mobile Food Vendor includes caravans, vehicles, trailers, carts, and/or trucks.

Public Place includes a street, way or place, which the public are allowed to use, whether the street, way or place is or is not on private property. It shall also include parklands, squares, reserves and other lands set apart for the use and enjoyment of the inhabitants of the District and includes all lands vested in or under the care, control or management of the Shire.

Related Documents

- Council Plan 2023-2033
- Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2020-2024

Legislation / Local Law Requirements

- *Local Government Act 1995*
- *Food Act 2008*
- Public Places And Local Government Property Local Law 2019

Amendment Record

Relevant Delegations		1.2.5. CEO Delegations under the Public Places and Local Government Property Local Law 2019	
		Date	Resolution Number
Council Adoption		Unidentified	
Version	Date	Resolution Number	Amendment Details
2	24 May 2004	SM047/05/04	
3	29 September 2015	OCM187/09/15	
4	18 December 2017	OCM179/12/17	
5	17 March 2025	OCM068/03/25	New template and updates to how applications will be considered