

OUTDOOR DINING POLICY

1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this policy is to provide a framework for making decisions regarding outdoor dining which encourages uses that add vitality and interest to the streetscape of towns and suburbs within Council's Local Government Area in a safe and beneficial manner.

The objectives of this Policy are:

- To encourage uses that add vitality and interest to the streetscape of towns and suburbs within Council's Local Government Area.
- To provide attractive surroundings for outdoor dining and refreshment.
- To support local economic development and commercial vitality.
- To ensure surrounding properties are not adversely impacted upon by outdoor dining activities either visually, or by the conduct and nature of those activities.
- To ensure adequate and safe space is available for use of footpaths and or road reserves for general pedestrian circulation and to ensure pedestrian and traffic safety are not compromised by outdoor dining activities.
- To allow the placing and erection of suitable structures, displays, planter boxes and furniture that do not excessively separate or close off areas from the general streetscape or interfere with safe public and pedestrian access, or other business uses.
- To ensure that footpaths and or road reserves are maintained in a manner conducive to the maintenance of public health standards, public access and the attractiveness of the areas as a civic space.
- To ensure that only high quality, attractive furniture and structures of a standard deemed suitable by Council are used in the outdoor dining areas.
- To apply common or consistent requirements and procedures to all applications for the use of a footpath and or road reserve for purposes of outdoor dining ancillary to an existing or a new food business.
- To specifically detail Council's policy requirements with regards to applications for the use of footpaths and or road reserves for purposes of outdoor dining ancillary to an existing or a new food business.
- To enhance the Port Macquarie-Hastings' image in keeping with Council's Vision: "A sustainable high quality of life for all" and Council's Mission: "To provide regional leadership and meet the community needs in an equitable and inclusive way that enhances the area's environmental, social and economic qualities".

2. POLICY STATEMENT AND SCOPE

- a) This policy applies to Council staff making decisions on outdoor dining.
- b) All applications for Approval under section 125 of the *Roads Act 1993*, to occupy a footpath and or road reserve for purposes of outdoor dining ancillary to an existing or a new food business are to be handled in accordance with Port Macquarie-Hastings Council's Outdoor Dining Procedure.
- c) The Outdoor Dining Procedure will be reviewed at a minimum every 2 years in line with relevant legislation and industry standards.
- d) The Outdoor Dining Procedure will be amended accordingly and approved to the satisfaction of the relevant Director.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES AND AUTHORITIES

This policy applies to Council staff making decisions on outdoor dining.

4. REFERENCES

- Section 125 *Roads Act 1993*
- Section 68 of the *Local Government Act 1993*; and
- Port Macquarie-Hastings Council's Outdoor Dining Procedure.

5. DEFINITIONS

Not applicable.

6. PROCESS OWNER

Property and Leasing Coordinator

7. AMENDMENTS

Minor amendments authorised by the Executive Group 29/06/16.