

Business Use of the Footpath

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1 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to facilitate businesses, community groups and entertainers use of the footpaths for either commercial or community activities, through the issue of an approval under the Roads Act 1993.

This policy aims to enhance and promote a vibrant and welcoming atmosphere in the Mid-Western Regional Council local government area (MWRC LGA).

The policy will ensure a pleasant and safe environment for shoppers and patrons, without compromising the safety or amenity of the public domain for pedestrians using the public footpath and adjoining public spaces and for motorists parking or alighting from their vehicles.

The policy will allow the approval of business use of footpath areas within the MWRC LGA adjacent to businesses where there is adequate road reserve/footpath width for safe pedestrian and traffic circulation.

The permits available are:

- Advertising signs
- Display of goods for sale
- Dining
- Dining/Liquor licensed area (NB. Pubs and small bars also require development consent under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979)

Temporary Use Permits include:

- Displays and promotions
- Community groups fundraising
- Busking

Businesses should not utilize a footpath use without a permit from the Council.

Community groups or the general public wanting to utilize a footpath for promotions, fundraising or entertainment activities should speak with the council before undertaking such activities.

2 Objective

The objectives of this policy are as follows:

2.1 Access and Equity

- To ensure safety and convenient passage of all pedestrians and customers when using public footpaths;
- To ensure the maintenance of clear view lines for both pedestrians and motorists, particularly near pedestrian crossings, street corners and key intersections; and
- To ensure adjoining premises are not adversely affected by any business use of footpath areas.

2.2 Council and community Protection

- To protect Council, the community and the public interest from potential insurance and liability claims, while permitting effective use of public footpaths for business purposes;
- To effectively address risk management and insurance liability issues for Council;
- To ensure that business use of public footpaths will not cost the public purse; and
- To ensure that the amenity of the general public will not be compromised by the provision of business use to footpath areas.

2.3 Economic

- To enhance the economic viability of our local businesses by offering permits to use public footpaths for business purposes;
- To ensure trading and enhance our neighbourhood centres by providing a more vibrant and colourful atmosphere for shoppers.
- To provide for an active and integrated street front; and
- To maintain visibility and exposure of shopfronts.

3 Legislative requirements

The Roads Act 1993 and the Local Government Act 1993 generally require that a person shall not carry out any activity on a public road or place without approval of Council.

Sections 125, 126 and 127 and in some cases Sections 137A-139F of the Roads Act 1993 allow Council to approve the use of a footpath as long as using the footpath for that purpose is not taken to constitute a public nuisance and does not give rise to an offence against the Roads Act or any other relevant legislation.

Section 68 of the Local Government Act 1993 allows Council to approve the planning of articles on or to overhang the footpath.

Sections 137A-139F of the Roads Act 1993, address legislative requirements for Street Vending activities.

Footpath dining that is not exempt will require development consent under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* To be exempt development, pursuant to State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008, the use of the footway must:

- (a) not be associated with a pub or a small bar, and
- (b) be carried out in accordance with an approval granted under Section 125 of the *Roads Act 1993* (if applicable), including in accordance with any hours of operation to which the approval is subject, and
- (c) be carried out in accordance with any approval granted under section 68 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (if applicable).

In accordance with above, if the outdoor dining area is associated with a pub or small bar, development consent is required under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*

NSW Liquor Act 2007 and Liquor Regulation 2008 apply for the purpose of the service of alcohol.

4 Areas to which this Policy applies

The policy applies to all footpath areas in the Mid-Western Regional Council areas.

5 Applying to use the Footpath

Applications must be made on the Permanent or Temporary Business Use of the Footpath Application forms which are available on Council's website or at Council's offices. Applications must be accompanied by a diagram showing how the footpath is proposed to be used with particular reference to the area of the proposed use and other supporting documentation as required by the Business Use of Footpaths Policy.

6 Footpath area that can and cannot be used

Business, community groups and entertainers use of footpath areas is permitted, with the approval of Council, generally on footpaths immediately adjacent to a shop front and in locations that do not cause an impediment to other footpath users.

The use of footpath areas maybe either prohibited or restricted, in locations where they obstruct the clear view line of pedestrians or motorists. Clear view lines allow pedestrians to view on-coming traffic and motorists to observe pedestrians movements.

To ensure access and equity there will generally be minimum width retained for pedestrian circulation of at least 1.8 metres immediately adjacent to the property boundaries (generally the building line), for the clear passage of footpath users.

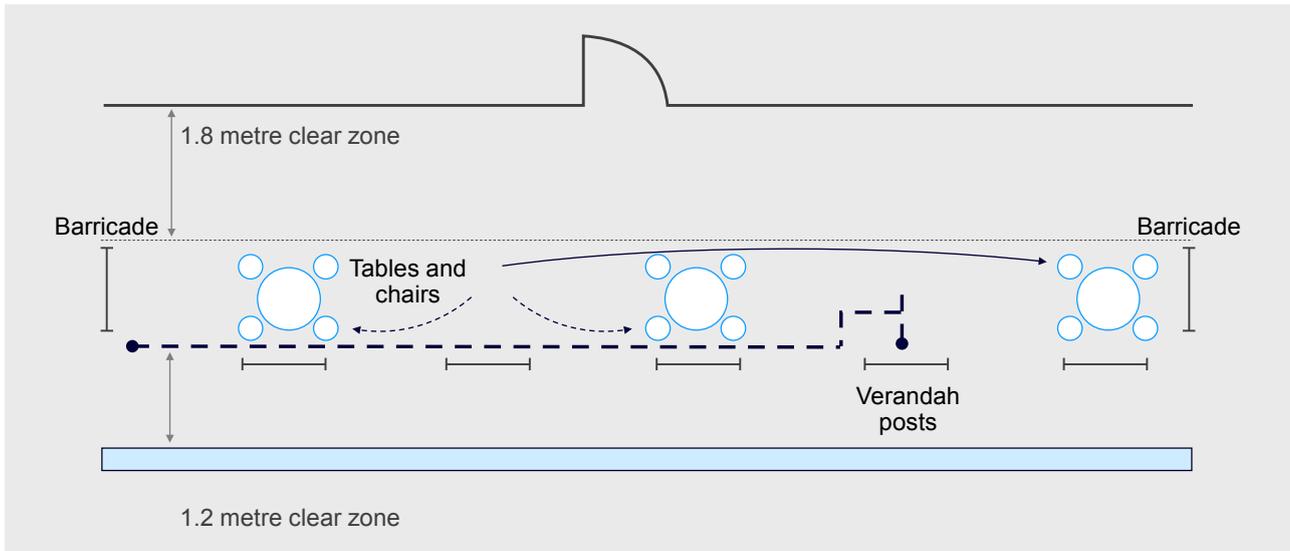
A 1.2 metre setback from the kerb edge is generally required to ensure the safety of pedestrians and patrons from contact with moving motor vehicles.

Council may, on the merit of a particular situation and application, consider variation to this standard where the applicant can show that the proposal is consistent with the surrounding environment, adequate pedestrian circulation and parking safely is maintained or that agreement has been obtained from the relevant Access Committee.

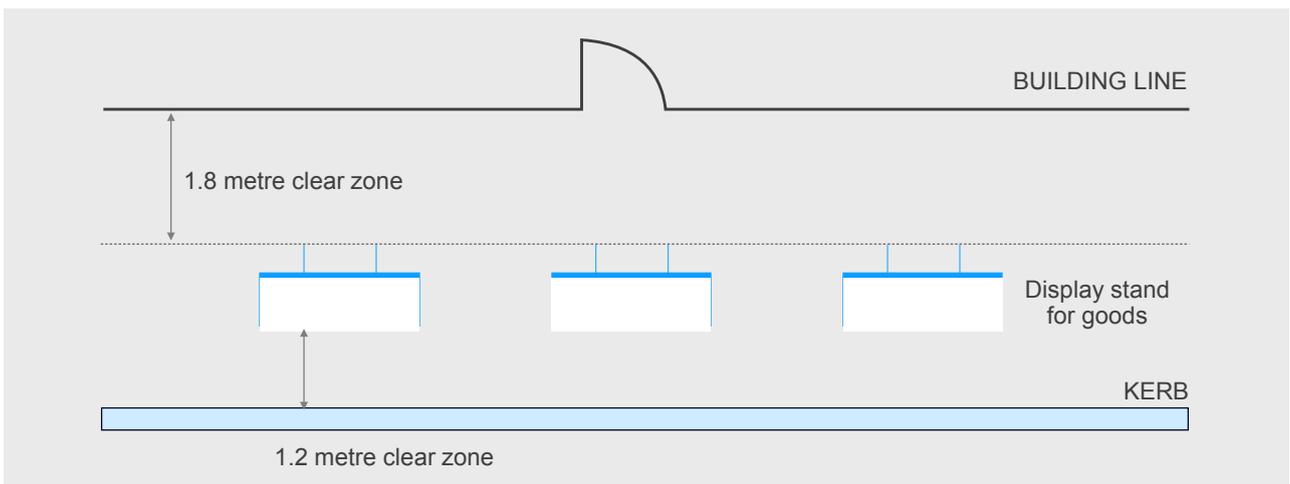
Any use of footpaths will be conditional upon the safety of potential users. These setback conditions (3 metres) may result in there being only small areas of footpath available for use. Applications should make this assessment before applying and paying any fees and charges.

Some examples of how footpaths may be used by businesses are set out diagrammatically below:

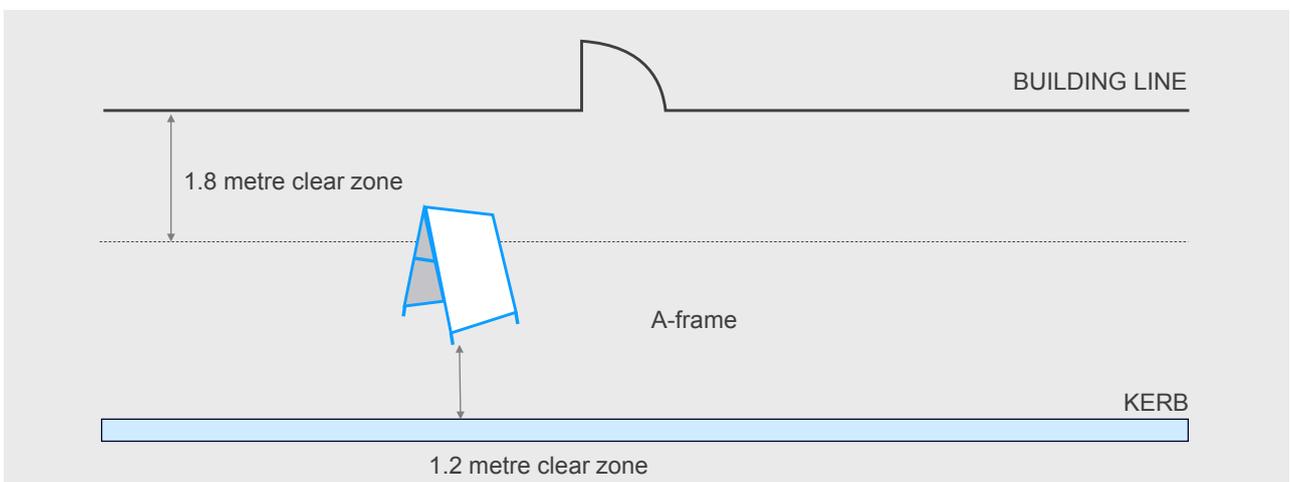
6.1.1 FOOTPATH DINING



6.1.2 DISPLAY OF GOODS FOR SALE



6.1.3 ADVERTISING OF BUSINESS



7 Public liability Insurance

Permission for the use of the footpath will only be valid where adequate insurance cover is provided by the applicant. To ensure Council and community protection from claims that may arise as a result of use of the footpath area the permit holder must:

- Take out a public liability insurance policy for the sum of not less than \$20,000,000 which is to be in force at all times during the term of the approval. Extend the policy to indemnify Mid-Western Regional Council against any public liability claims arising from trading activities on the footpath. Your insurance policy must also state the ABN (or ACN) for the business the permit is to relate to.
- Provide proof of this current policy to council with the application for approval or when requested to do so (This can be by way of a Certificate of Currency).
- Maintain this insurance policy during the term of the approval and provide updated Certificates of Currency each year upon the renewal of your insurance policy.

8 The Permit

Council will issue a Permit to those who receive approval to use the footpath for business purposes. The issue of permits to use the footpath for business purposes will be at the sole discretion of the General Manager. This Permit must be prominently displayed in the front window of the business of which the Permit refers.

9 General Conditions

All business / persons being issued with a permit shall be required to comply with the following general conditions:

9.1 Term

Approvals shall be for a maximum period of 5 years.

9.2 Fees

Council reserves the right to charge a fee for the administration process of determining, approving and issuing permits.

Permits are subject to an application fee and annual renewal fee, with an area fee additional to each of the previous fees, as outlined in Mid-Western Regional Councils Schedule of Fees and Charges. The annual fees will be charged every 12 months from the date of approval.

9.3 Hours of operation

The hours of operation for any approved area must be the same as or less than the approved hours of operation of the associated business unless specified in the permit. The hours of operation for the approved area may be limited if it is considered that the amenity of the surrounding area or the safety of pedestrians or footpath diners may be adversely affected. Businesses seeking approval for the service of alcohol with meals will have hours of alcohol service defined, refer section 10.4 below

9.4 Maintenance of approved area

The approved area and areas between the shop premises shall be kept clean at all times and any spills or other material likely to cause injury or accident shall be removed immediately by the applicant/operator.

9.5 Smoking

Smoking is not permitted in any area used for dining or any other area as provided under the Smoke-free environment act 2000.

9.6 Business or financial Transactions

No business or financial transactions shall be carried out on the approved area. Such activities shall be carried out wholly within the confines of the premises. This does not include the giving and taking of bills, and associated tips and charges.

9.7 Lighting

Any proposed lighting must be included in the application for approval by Council and be in accordance with the relevant Australian Standards.

9.8 Noise

Amplified music is not permitted.

9.9 Safety

The approved area shall not in any form reduce the safe egress of people from the business premises.

9.10 Access

- The applicant should provide access in accordance with AS1428 for people with disabilities.
- No business use of the footpath will be permitted where the use would create access problems for people with disabilities.
- In heritage areas with narrower footpaths, consideration will still be given to applications which take account of the needs of all persons who require clear lines of access past footpath obstacles.

9.11 Public Assets

- The removal/relocation of any Council assets, such as rubbish bins and existing street furniture, shall be subject to Council approval and will be at the applicant's cost.
- The removal/relocation of any public utilities/infrastructure shall not be permitted unless justification on public benefit can be made to Council and approvals have been obtained from the relevant authorities. Works will be carried out at the applicant's cost.

9.12 Breaches of Conditions

- If a business permitted to use the footpath in accordance with the Policies conditions breach any of the conditions that apply to their permit will in the first instance be warned. The warning of the breach will be placed in writing.

- Businesses that have been warned of a breach and are found to have again breached will have the permit withdrawn. Notice of withdrawal of the permit will be in writing.
- Businesses who have the service of alcohol condition 10.4 contained in their permit and have been found to have breached condition 10.4 will have the notice of permit being withdrawn notified to the Liquor Licensing Authority.

9.13 Permit transferability

The Permit cannot be transferred from one user to another. Should a business be sold, the new business operator must make a new application to Council for permission to use the footpath.

9.14 Termination of a permit

A Permit can be terminated at any time by either party with one week's notice.

The Council may enter the approved area and terminate the approval, without notice if:

- The operator breaches the approval and does not remedy the breach within 14 days of receipt of written notice from the Council (this includes non-payment of fees);
- In the Council's opinion, the road safety or pedestrian circumstances in regard to the approved area substantially change; or
- Council's approval granted pursuant to section 68 of the Local Government Act 1993 and section 125 of the Roads Act 1993 is either revoked by Council, or lapses.

9.15 Enforcement and Compliance.

Enforcement can be taken under the Roads (General) Regulation 2000 in relation to the placement of obstructions on the footpath, or Section 125(1) and 121B of the environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. Failure to comply with the conduct of business set out herein or with the enforcement order may result in receiving a fine or cancellation of the Permit. These offences incur set penalties set by State legislation.

10 Specific Conditions

10.1 Advertising Signs

The following controls apply to all signage/advertising to be displayed on the approved area:

- Large portable advertising signs or fixed structures will be referred to Councils Planning department for determination of the need for a Development Application to be lodged with the Council.
- Signage/advertising can be permitted on A-frames, barriers and umbrellas. (Umbrellas must be of non-reflective material, signage on each umbrella must be consistent with all other umbrellas on the approved area).
- No other signage will be permitted on any other structure on the footpath/nature strip.
- All signage must be placed to avoid obstruction to pedestrian movement (in accordance with Section 6)
- A-Frames must be a maximum height of 1.2 metres and maximum width of 0.6 metres
- A-Frames must only be displayed during business hours
- A-Frames are to be generally located directly in front of the premises to which they relate
- Signage must be of colour (or marked) so that it is distinguishable
- Signage must not have any sharp edges or protruding parts
- Signage must directly relate to your business

10.2 Display of goods for sale

- Separate approval under Section 68 of the Local Government Act 1993 is also required to sell articles on the footpath.
- Display stands must be stable or firmly secured. Display stands should be a minimum height of 1.0 metres and a maximum height of 1.2 metres and width of 0.75 metres. All display stands should be of high quality design.
- No part of the footpath is to be used for storage.

10.3 Dining

- Footpath dining areas associated with pubs or small bars require development consent under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* in addition to a permit under Section 125 of the *Roads Act 1993*.
- Separate approval under Section 68 of the Local Government Act 1993 may also be required if temporary shade structures overhang the road.
- Barricades are optional. If installed, barricades must not contain parts that are likely to cause damage to the pavement, or sharp edges, hinges and other moving parts that may present a hazard to patrons or pedestrians
- Any proposed transparent solid barrier (such as Perspex) should comply with AS 1428.1 Access and Mobility, and should be clearly marked for the full width with a highly visible contrasting line.
- Outdoor dining areas must be easily accessible from the public footway and should as far as possible present an open and inviting image to entice participation. Planter boxes may be used in appropriate circumstances to physically define the side boundaries or perimeters of an outdoor dining area.
- Planter boxes may be considered in open areas, where there is sufficient room and pedestrian movement is not impeded. The planter boxes must be well-maintained by the applicant. Council reserves the right to order the removal of planter boxes that are not properly maintained including the consistent provision of approved high-quality flowers or vegetation. Permanent planter boxes will only be considered on footpath areas where the footpath has been widened for specific business use.
- Approved planters shall be terra cotta, concrete or reconstituted stone in natural, sandstone or terra cotta colour, or powder coated, brushed stainless steel or timber.
- Outdoor furniture should be strong, durable, waterproof and weather resistant designed for commercial outdoor use. Tables and chairs should fold or stack for storage.
- Outdoor furniture may be powder coated or polished aluminium, brushed or stainless steel, natural or painted timber, or canvass. Under no circumstances shall outdoor furniture consist of “cheap” bulk manufactured plastic chairs. Surfaces such as table tops should be non-reflective. All outdoor furniture will be subject to the approval of Council.
- Outdoor furniture is not to be placed outside the approved area under any circumstances.
- Each business should adopt a single colour and style for tables and chairs in its particular area to provide consistency and identity.
- All outdoor furniture must be temporary and must be able to be removed in extreme weather conditions.
- Umbrella’s must be securely mounted at all times and in the advent of high winds must be managed so that they do not cause harm to patrons and pedestrians.
- Where the use of a heating device is proposed, details of the type, location and design must be included in the application. Heating devices must be designed in a manner which minimises risk and as such shall turn off automatically if overturned to prevent injury to patrons and property. Heating devices must be removed when not in use and suitably screened from public view. All outdoor heaters must comply with the relevant Australian Standards.
- Food and drink must be served on non-disposable crockery and cutlery. Food and drink must not be prepared in the area approved for outdoor eating.

- Paper, foam or plastic plates, cups and cutlery shall not be used for footpath outdoor dining areas.
- Appropriate footpath service shall be provided which includes as a minimum the removal of any dirty plates, cups, cutlery, footpath staining, and rubbish on a regular basis during each operating day.

10.4 Dining / Liquor Licensing area

- Footpath dining areas associated with pubs or small bars require development consent under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 in addition to a permit under Section 125 of the Roads Act 1993.
 - Separate approval under Section 68 of the Local Government Act 1993 may also be required if temporary shade structures overhang the road
 - All applications for a dining / liquor licenced area permit will be referred to NSW Police Mudgee Local Area Command. Local Police can make representations to the Office of Liquor Gaming & Racing as part of the consideration of the liquor license boundary extension application and; comment directly to the Council on the proposed local permit being issued.
 - Council will issue to applicants a letter outlining the local conditions of the permit, this letter may be used by businesses when applying to the Office of Liquor Gaming & Racing to extend their liquor licence boundary to include the designated area of footpath.
 - Conditions may include:
 - Barricades 1 metre in height clearly defining the boundaries of the licenced area will be approved in consultation with the council. The barricades must be linked together and constructed so that they cannot be easily moved by patrons and can tolerate wind events.
 - The maximum capacity of patrons to be seated at tables in the permitted footpath dining area will be limited by the available square meters of footpath divided by 3 multiplied by 4 which equates to the maximum number of patrons at one time in the designated area (4 persons per 3 square metres).
 - Seated table service of alcohol with meals by authorised staff of the licenced premises only will be permitted Service of alcohol with meals is restricted to be undertaken between the hours 12 noon and 10 pm, and;
 - no more than one alcoholic drink may be supplied to any one person at any one time and;
 - the following drinks must not be sold or supplied;
 - any drink (commonly referred to as a 'shot') that contains more than 30 ml
 - of spirits or liqueur and that is designated to be consumed rapidly and;
 - any drink containing more than 50% spirits or liqueur and;
 - any ready to drink (RTD) beverage with an alcohol by volume content more than 5% and;
 - any drink prepared on the premises that contains more than one 30ml nil nip of spirits or liqueur
 - Wine and beer sold by the glass cannot exceed the following individual serve quantities; wine not exceeding 150 ml and beer not exceeding 425mls
 - Liquor must only be sold or supplied in vessels opened by authorised staff of the licenced premises
 - No liquor may be taken out of the footpath defined licenced area
- NB: in this condition, ready to drink (RTD) beverage means an alcoholic mixed beverage that is prepared by the manufacturer.
- In the case of BYO the proprietor shall serve and store the alcohol provided by patrons within the premises (not the footpath area) as single drinks as above.
 - Signposting of the licenced area will be displayed on the outside panels of the barricades to inform the public of the licenced area.
 - Signposting of the Alcohol Free Zone will be displayed on the inside of the barricades informing patrons that as they leave the licenced area they are entering an alcohol free zone.

- Outdoor furniture should be strong, durable, waterproof and weather resistant designed for commercial outdoor use. Tables and chairs should fold or stack for storage.
- Outdoor furniture may be powder coated or polished aluminum, brushed or stainless steel, natural or painted timber, or canvass. Under no circumstances shall outdoor furniture consist of “cheap” bulk manufactured plastic chairs. Surfaces such as table tops should be non-reflective. All outdoor furniture will be subject to the approval of Council.

10.5 Temporary Use Permits

- Temporary use permits are required by businesses, community organisations and individuals wanting to access the footpath/nature strip for once off / occasional activities including advertising, promotions, fundraising, and entertainment and busking. Applications must contain the following;
 - A description of the activity to be conducted e.g. fashion parade, sale of raffle tickets, busking, promotion, advertising, choir etc.
 - The date and times of the activity including setup and takedown e.g. 10.30 am to 12.30 pm
 - A description of furniture and fittings to be placed on the footpath / nature strip
 - A letter/email of consent from the business that is supporting the activity to be conducted on the footpath in front of their shop
 - A certificate of currency (refer to item 7 above)
- Temporary use permits issued by council will be dated and state the permitted activity. Permits must be made available upon request by a council employee. Businesses must display permits in the front window, as per section 8..
- For businesses requesting a temporary permit to use the footpath;
 - A maximum of two (2) Temporary Business Use of Footpath applications can be submitted during any one calendar year, and
 - Such an application cannot exceed more than four (4) weeks at any one time.
- Businesses requesting to use the footpath in excess of the above restrictions will be required to submit a Permanent Business Use of Footpath form and pay the appropriate fees and charges.