

Busking Terms and Conditions

Permits and Registration

Council reserves the right to limit the numbers of approvals and regulate approvals through application of fees and charges.

Buskers must hold a valid Southern Highlands Busking Permit (Busking Permit), while busking.

Eligibility

Busking in Wingecarribee Shire Council is open to individuals aged 16 and over.

Buskers under 18 require signed consent forms from a parent/guardian and must be supervised by a parent or guardian at all times whilst performing.

Application

To receive a Busking Permit, buskers are required to apply online with Council. Applications must include photo identification, a description and photograph of the performance, and details of any proposed equipment.

Permit Fees

Busking Permits are \$20 per year. Permits are non-transferable.

Insurance and Liability

Buskers are required to hold Public Liability Insurance in order to perform in public spaces. Buskers who hold their own Public Liability Insurance must provide a current Certificate of Currency as part of the permit application process.

Council offers access to Public Liability Insurance coverage to a value of **\$20 million** with Council endorsed as an insured party, subject to payment of the applicable permit fee.



Insurance coverage only applies once the Busking Permit has been approved and the insurance fee has been paid in full. No coverage is provided for performances undertaken without a valid permit.

Where a claim is made under Council's Public Liability Insurance policy as a result of a busker's activities, the busker will be responsible for payment of the first \$500 of any excess applicable to the claim.

Council provides the following insurance cover options:

Public Liability Insurance Coverage	Cost
Daily cover	\$13.00
Weekly cover	\$20.00
Monthly cover	\$35.00
Six-monthly cover	\$56.00
Annual cover	\$105.00

Selection Criteria for Busking Applications

Criteria for assessing busking applications include:

- presentation and appearance of performers;
- entertainment value and uniqueness of performances;
- professionalism of performers.

Public Safety and Conduct

- Buskers must ensure footpaths and thoroughfares near performances remain unobstructed, safe and accessible.
- Aggressive solicitation or persistent requesting of donations is prohibited.
- Performers must act respectfully toward businesses, residents, and pedestrians.
- No offensive, discriminatory, or explicit material allowed.
- The use of dangerous materials is not considered an acceptable element of busking.

Performance Conditions

All applicants must abide by the following conditions:

- Buskers are not to offer goods or services for sale or advertise such goods or services while busking.



- If busking activity or content is directed at children, such as puppetry, clowns or storytelling, the applicant must provide a current Working with Children Check.
- Buskers must leave the site clean and undamaged and ensure they do not compromise public safety.
- Buskers must not obstruct pedestrian or trader and delivery vehicles at any time.
- A two-metre pedestrian clearway must be maintained to ensure passers-by have suitable clearance and are not obstructed in any way.
- Buskers must actively direct crowds before and during the performance to maintain essential access clearance. This includes wheelchair access.
- Buskers must not busk against the building line, to ensure people with vision impairment can safely navigate.
- Buskers are not permitted to play pre-recorded music in the busking location in lieu of a busking performance or while taking a break from busking.

Approved Locations

Locations for busking include:

Bowral

- Corbett Plaza, Bong Bong Street



Berrima

- In front of the Cottage Cafe, next to Surveyor General Inn



Mittagong

- Bowral Road and Ward Lane, between Mittabrew Cafe and Capital Chemist



Moss Vale

- Leighton Gardens





Bundanoon

- Soldiers Memorial Hall



- Busking is permitted only in designated public spaces, as outlined above.
- Buskers must ensure a distance of at least 50 metres is maintained between performers.
- Busking is not permitted within 10 metres of outdoor dining facilities or licenced venues during operating hours without prior arrangement.

Hours

Permitted busking hours are 10:00 am to 7:00 pm Monday to Sunday.

Maximum two hours per location per day, with a two-hour break before returning to the same site.



Noise Levels

Buskers who play too loudly earn less money as crowds keep a distance from the performance. Distancing your audience with high volume also adds to congestion and crowding in pedestrian zones, so people are less likely to stay to watch your performance.

The following guidelines can help you monitor whether your act is at the right volume. Be aware that an authorised person from the Council or police can tell you to lower your volume or stop performing at any time and you must follow their instructions.

- If you cannot hear surrounding background noise while performing, you are playing too loudly. Ensuring that your performance cannot be heard from 50 metres away is essential.
- If your audience is gathering more than three metres from you, you are playing too loudly. Performing too loudly can negatively affect neighbouring homes and businesses and drive your audience away.
- If your performance can be heard 50 metres from your location, you're playing too loudly. Ask a friend or fellow busker to walk 50-60 paces from your performance and see if they can still hear you. If they can, turn it down.
- If somebody living or working in a building near you complains that they can hear your performance over their own conversation, you are playing too loudly. Remember, you can reach a compromise, but you could have your Busking Permit reviewed if you refuse to turn your volume down when directed to by the police or Council staff.
- If you find that no one is paying you any tips, try reducing your volume and see if people become more comfortable approaching you.
- An enthusiastic audience or an increase in another performer's volume levels are not valid reasons for exceeding the designated sound levels.
- Amplification is allowed only in specified areas, on application, and must be battery-operated.
- Additional restrictions for locations and timings may apply to instruments identified as loud without the use of amplification, such as bagpipes, drums and other instruments that are naturally loud without amplification.



- The use of percussion instruments is restricted to specific areas on application.

**Enforcement
and
Complaints**

Council rangers and authorised officers may inspect Busking Permits and monitor compliance. Buskers must always have their Busking Permit on them while busking.

Complaints can be submitted via the Council website, in person at the Civic Centre Customer Service counter or via the Council's phone line.

**Non-
Compliance
with this
Policy**

Breaches may result in verbal warnings, fines, or revocation of permits. Repeated excessive noise may result in the cancellation of a Busking Permit.

**Special
Events and
Markets**

Separate permissions may be required for busking at markets, festivals, or private events on public land.

Busking applications for Council-run events, festivals and local markets will be considered favourably and are encouraged.

Event organisers may coordinate busking independently, subject to Council approval.

