

16 February 2026

At the conclusion of the Environment and Climate Change
Committee

Cultural, Creative and Nightlife Committee

Agenda

- 1. Confirmation of Minutes**
- 2. Statement of Ethical Obligations and Disclosures of Interest**
- 3. Public Exhibition - Amended Busking and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Practice Policy and Sydney Busking Code**
- 4. Grants and Sponsorship - Accommodation Grants Program - ReadyMade Works Incorporated**

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13. Public forums are recorded and webcast live on the City of Sydney website. Livestreaming is undertaken in accordance with clauses 5.35 to 5.55 of the Code of Meeting Practice.

Item 1.

Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the following meetings of the Cultural, Creative and Nightlife Committee are submitted for confirmation:

Meeting of 10 November 2025

Item 2.**Statement of Ethical Obligations**

In accordance with section 233A of the Local Government Act 1993, the Lord Mayor and Councillors are bound by the Oath or Affirmation of Office made at the start of the Council term to undertake their civic duties in the best interests of the people of the City of Sydney and the City of Sydney Council and to faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in them under the Local Government Act 1993 or any other Act, to the best of their ability and judgement.

Disclosures of Interest

Pursuant to the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993, the City of Sydney Code of Meeting Practice and the City of Sydney Code of Conduct, Councillors are required to disclose and manage both pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in any matter on the agenda for this meeting.

In both cases, the nature of the interest must be disclosed.

This includes receipt of reportable political donations over the previous four years.

Item 3.

Public Exhibition - Amended Busking and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Practice Policy and Sydney Busking Code

File No: X130950

Summary

In our local area, the rules regarding busking in public places are outlined in the Busking and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Practice Policy (the Policy) and the Sydney Busking Code (the Code).

On 17 November 2025, Council resolved to undertake an urgent review of the Policy and Code. The resolution requested City staff: consult with the busking community regarding recent changes to the Policy and Code; investigate increasing the number of safe busking sites on George Street; and consult with Transdev - who operate the light rail on George Street - on the safety implications of any proposed changes.

Online and in-person consultation with buskers took place throughout December 2025 and January 2026, providing buskers with the opportunity to suggest new sites and changed arrangements. An Engagement Report, summarising the feedback received from buskers during the review, is included at Attachment A.

In addition, City staff met with Placemaking NSW regarding their management of busking in Barangaroo, The Rocks and Circular Quay, and requested a written submission from Transdev, operator of the light rail.

These engagement activities have informed proposed amendments to the Policy and Code, which are outlined in this report, including the rationale for the amendments, along with some further actions to support busking. The key changes can be summarised as follows:

- Simplification of language
- Removal of amplification as a criterion for a high impact act
- Reinstatement of 2 busking pitches in Pitt St Mall for low impact acts
- Busking is permitted on George Street except for 3 locations which have caused safety concerns or amenity impacts for residents
- Reinstatement of the 2-hour duration for busking on George Street for low impact acts
- Inclusion of safety guidance for busking around light rail so that buskers can set up their pitches safely.

This report recommends the amended draft Local Approvals Policy for Busking and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Practice, and an amended Sydney Busking Code, be placed on public exhibition for feedback from all interested persons - including buskers, businesses, residents, key stakeholders such as Transdev, the RSL and precinct associations, and the general community - for a period of 42 days.

Recommendation

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council note the feedback received from buskers during the review, outlined in the Engagement Report, as shown at Attachment A to the subject report;
- (B) Council approve for public exhibition the draft amended Busking and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Practice Policy (the Policy), as shown at Attachment B to the subject report;
- (C) Council approve for public exhibition the amended Sydney Busking Code (the Code), as shown at Attachment C to the subject report, a guidance document to be published alongside the Policy;
- (D) Council note that any recommended changes to either the Policy or the Code will be reported to Council for consideration following the exhibition period; and
- (E) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to undertake minor editorial corrections prior to the exhibition of the draft amended Policy and Code.

Attachments

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| Attachment A. | Engagement Report - Busking Policy and Code Review - Targeted Engagement with Busking Community |
| Attachment B. | Draft Busking and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Practice Policy (amended) |
| Attachment C. | Sydney Busking Code (amended) |

Background

1. On 23 June 2025, Council approved the public exhibition of a draft Local Approvals Policy for Busking and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Practice (the Policy), alongside an updated Sydney Busking Code (the Code).
2. The Policy was placed on public exhibition for 42 days from 24 June to 5 August 2025.
3. The Policy included some amended rules related to busking in our local area, and the Sydney Busking Code included a new approach to managing busking on George Street and Pitt Street Mall.
4. A very small amount of feedback was received during the public exhibition period, and following public exhibition, the Council adopted the Policy and Code on 25 August 2025.
5. As noted in a resolution of Council on 17 November 2025 "Support for Busking in the City of Sydney", the recently adopted Policy and Code impose restrictions including:
 - (a) a reduction from 2 pitches to one pitch in Pitt Street Mall for both low and high impact acts
 - (b) the classification of any act using amplification as high impact and reducing performance time to a maximum of one hour
 - (c) limiting busking to just 6 locations along George Street, prohibiting busking in many popular and long-standing pitches
 - (d) reducing performance time for low impact acts on George Street to a maximum of one hour
6. When these changes were implemented in October 2025, several buskers took to social media to voice concerns about the impacts of the changes. Of particular concern was the reduction of busking sites on George Street. Correspondence received from buskers suggested that many were unaware of the proposed changes that were exhibited in June, July and August.
7. On 17 November 2025, Council resolved to undertake an urgent review of the Policy and Code. The resolution requested City staff: consult with the busking community regarding recent changes to the Policy and Code; investigate increasing the number of safe busking sites on George Street; and consult with Transdev - who operate the light rail on George Street - on the safety implications of any proposed changes.

Consultation

8. Targeted engagement activities with the busking community were undertaken throughout December 2025 and January 2026.
9. Invitations to participate in this consultation were emailed to 476 registered buskers, messages were sent to all buskers who had previously communicated with the City through social media channels, and flyers were distributed directly to buskers in Pitt Street Mall, Hyde Park, Circular Quay, Martin Place and George Street.

10. Buskers were invited to complete an online survey, provide one-to-one feedback with Council staff, or attend a drop-in session at Town Hall House on 8 December 2025.
11. A total of 134 pieces of feedback were received from buskers, including:
 - (a) 101 comments received by 15 people who attended the drop-in session at Town Hall House
 - (b) one face-to-face meeting
 - (c) 31 survey responses
 - (d) one written submission
12. Buskers were asked what they think is working well about busking in Sydney, what is not working well, where they like to busk, and where they think the most suitable locations for busking are, particularly in George Street and Pitt Street Mall. Further feedback around safety, the experience of busking and the Policy in general was also sought.
13. Feedback on the safety implications of busking adjacent to light rail tracks on George Street was requested from Transdev who provided a written submission (making a total of 135 pieces of feedback received during the consultation period).

Insights

14. The busking community indicated a strong desire to be included in making changes to the busking policy and code. They requested clearer communications to ensure buskers properly understood policy review processes and how they may be impacted by any proposed changes.
15. The previous busking policy and code (in place prior to August 2025) was working well and many buskers considered it to strike the right balance between enabling self-managed busking and minimising impacts on public spaces and neighbouring businesses or residents. Many buskers suggested the previous policy and code be reinstated.
16. Buskers feel that busking on George Street was working well without defined pitches, allowing for flexibility and for buskers to respond to the conditions on the day, such as rain, protestors, preachers, and rough sleepers. Buskers appreciated how the previous policy allowed them to use their discretion to determine the best location to busk at any given time.
17. Buskers noted that safety on George Street alongside the light rail is important. Guidance was sought on how buskers can set up their act safely in these areas.
18. Pitt Street Mall continues to be a very popular and important location for busking. Here, buskers do see the need for specifically determined busking pitches and a one-hour time limit to maximise shared access to these pitches. However, buskers feel that a return to 2 pitches for musical acts is needed.
19. Buskers who use Pitt Street Mall noted a need to better manage disruptions to busking, such as protestors, preachers, dance groups performing without permits, retail activations and Christmas carols.

20. Some buskers requested more advocacy and support, including a dedicated busking liaison officer at the City and facilitation of busking in festivals and events produced or funded by the City (such as Vivid Sydney or Sydney New Years Eve).

Proposed amendments to the Policy.

21. Informed by the consultation, the following amendments are recommended and marked up in the draft Policy shown at Attachment B.
- (a) Removal of the use of amplification as a criterion for a High Impact permit.
 - (b) Inclusion of PASS accreditation (Peer Assessment for Street Safety) from Street Performance Australia as criteria for receiving a High Impact permit without attending an act assessment.
 - (c) Removal of clauses 14.2 and 14.3 that prohibit busking on George Street or within 5m of traffic intersections, pedestrian crossings and light rail tracks.
 - (d) For clarity, an addition to clause 14.7 noting that a busking site must not be established where the act or their audience is likely to hinder access to a pedestrian crossing or to public transport (including light rail).
 - (e) For clarity, a change to clause 15.3 to note that busking is only permitted within event sites (such as Vivid Sydney or Sydney New Years Eve) in accordance with conditions provided by the City or the event owner, and that those conditions may be different from the standard conditions for a busking permit, and they supersede standard conditions.

Proposed amendments to the Sydney Busking Code

22. Informed by the consultation, the following amendments have been made to the Sydney Busking Code shown at Attachment C.
- (a) Simplified language throughout.
 - (b) Removal of the use of amplification as a criterion for a High Impact permit.
 - (c) Amended conditions for Pitt Street Mall:
 - (i) There are 3 pitches in Pitt Street Mall.
 - (ii) A Central pitch (outside MidCity entry), for Extended Duration acts only.
 - (iii) North (near King Street) and South (near Market Street) pitches, for Low Impact acts only. Buskers may perform at these pitches for one hour only.
 - (iv) All pitches are allocated on a first-in basis.

- (v) Buskers may perform at only one pitch once per day and not the same pitch on consecutive days.

Reason: the reason for these amendments is to return 2 pitches to Pitt Street Mall for musical acts, while balancing concerns expressed by neighbouring businesses about repeatedly hearing the same acts every day.

- (d) Amended conditions for Martin Place:

- (i) No busking is permitted in Martin Place between Pitt Street and Castlereagh Street.

Reason: previously there was only one pitch available along the whole of Martin Place in a location not favoured by buskers. The amended conditions will increase busking opportunities, while avoiding conflicts with busy outdoor dining, event and retail activation locations in the section of Martin Place between Pitt and Castlereagh Streets.

- (e) Amended conditions in George Street:

- (i) Busking is permitted on George Street in accordance with the criteria for establishing a busking pitch in the Policy and the conditions of a busker's permit (that is, standard Low Impact and High Impact conditions apply).

- (ii) There are 3 locations on George Street where busking is not permitted. These locations are:

- a. the intersection of George Street and Hay Street, within 50m of all corners of the intersection

Reason: this busy light rail intersection has limited space for pedestrians and high levels of background noise which can urge buskers to perform at very high volumes. Busking here impacts pedestrians' capacity to see, hear and navigate around trams. Busking is better suited to nearby Dixon Street Mall, Thomas Street and the intersection of Barlow and George Streets.

- b. either side of George Street between Goulburn Street and Liverpool Street

Reason: busking here impacts residential apartments above World Square. The City has received a number of complaints about busking in this location over a sustained period of time. There is ample opportunity for busking on adjacent blocks.

- c. the southwestern corner of the intersection of George Street and Bathurst Street (outside KFC)

Reason: feedback received from Transdev notes records of near misses with trams in this location related to busking activity. Busking in this location impedes pedestrian flow and encourages people into the path of trams. Musical busking acts make it harder to hear tram warning sounds. A number of complaints about busking have been received from residents overlooking this intersection. Buskers are encouraged to use the popular busking areas outside St Andrews, Town Hall, Woolworths or QVB instead.

- (f) Inclusion of safety guidance for busking around light rail.

Further actions to support busking

- 23. The City is developing an online resource for busking. Specifically designed for use on mobile devices, the resource will provide an interactive digital version of the Sydney Busking Code, further information about obtaining and renewing permits, real-time updates regarding impacts to busking locations, and an easy way for buskers to contact the City and provide feedback about busking. This online resource will be trialled post-exhibition, and will incorporate any updates to the Policy and the Busking Code adopted by Council post-exhibition.
- 24. The City is working with Placemaking NSW who manage busking at Barangaroo, The Rocks and Circular Quay, to better align busking programs and to provide a single source of information relating to busking across the 2 jurisdictions.
- 25. The City employs a busking coordinator and will continue to provide support for buskers on new arrangements.
- 26. The City will continue to facilitate opportunities for buskers to participate in festivals and events in Sydney.

Key Implications

Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision

- 27. Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision renews the communities' vision for the sustainable development of the city to 2050. It includes 10 strategic directions to guide the future of the city, as well as 10 targets against which to measure progress. This policy is aligned with the following strategic directions and objectives:
 - (a) Direction 3 - Public places for all - busking makes a notable contribution to a vibrant city centre, and bustling retail centres. Busking helps contribute to the human experience of visiting the city centre to shop, socialise and be entertained. By enabling Cultural Practice across our local area, we increase our communities' connections to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and heritage in our public places.
 - (b) Direction 8 - A thriving cultural life - busking is an important part of the music ecosystem, providing professional development and economic opportunities for musicians.

Organisational Impact

28. The Policy review has recommended no changes to how the management of busking is currently resourced.
29. The proposed actions to further support busking can be implemented within current resources.

Risks

30. The Policy review has recommended increasing the number of locations for busking in George Street, Pitt Street Mall and Martin Place. These risks are assessed in balance with the considerable benefits that busking activities generate for the city. The Policy and the Sydney Busking Code are designed to manage those risks.
31. Guidance for busking safely around the light rail has been included in the Sydney Busking Code to help manage the risk of additional busking activity adjacent light rail operations.
32. This approach is within the City's risk appetite which states:
 - (a) We are committed to conducting our activities in full compliance with applicable laws, regulations and relevant industry standards.
 - (b) We have a cautious to open appetite for our strategic, community development, urban planning and creative functions and services.
 - (c) We acknowledge that achieving a risk-free environment is not feasible, especially in the public domain. We therefore aim to minimise health, safety and wellbeing risks within our organisation and in the public domain as far as reasonably practicable and in keeping with our legal obligations.

Social / Cultural / Community

33. A comprehensive review of the City's approach to busking was recommended in an action in the City's Live Music and Performance Action Plan, 2014. This action initiated the comprehensive review undertaken in 2017 and 2018 which put in place a self-managed system for busking, governed by former iterations of the Policy. The Policy has opened up most public locations in our local area to busking and dramatically increased busking opportunities in Sydney for 8 years.
34. This Policy review and consultation with the busking community was an urgent response to community feedback and advocacy received on behalf of buskers. The City has undertaken this consultation to ensure that those who are affected by the Policy are aware of proposed changes and have been given fair opportunity to provide feedback and inform policy outcomes.

Financial Implications

35. The Policy review recommends no changes to the currently budgeted resources for managing busking.
36. Public exhibition of the draft policy and associated community consultation is accounted for within the existing operational budget.

Relevant Legislation

- 37. Local Government Act 1993.

Critical Dates / Time Frames

- 38. If approved, the Policy will be placed on public exhibition for 42 days in accordance with the requirements in the Act. Feedback will be reviewed and any recommended amendments will be reported to Council for adoption prior to June 2026.

Public Consultation

- 39. This Policy review is informed by targeted consultation with the busking community and a written submission provided by Transdev, the light rail operator.
- 40. If approved, the draft policy will be placed on public exhibition for 42 days.
- 41. Consultation will include surveys, written submissions and an online forum with City staff. People who made submissions to the previous policy review in June 2025 will be notified and provided with an opportunity to provide further feedback. An information session will be organised for buskers.

KATE DEACON

Executive Director Strategic Development and Engagement

Lex Davidson, Manager Cultural Strategy

Attachment A

**Engagement Report - Busking Policy and
Code Review – Targeted Engagement with
Busking Community**

Busking community – engagement report



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Overview

Background

The Busking and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Practice Local Approvals Policy and the Sydney Busking Code guide busking activity in our area and outline the rules for using the most popular sites, which we call Special Busking Sites – these documents were updated in 2025 and adopted by Council in August following a public exhibition between 24 June and 5 August 2025. All registered buskers who provided the City with an email address were notified about the public exhibition, however, just four buskers provided feedback on the policy and code.

A Lord Mayor Minute (LMM) on 17 November 2025, requested that the City urgently review the policy and busking code, including investigating increasing the number of safe George Street busking sites for all busking permit holders and enabling low impact buskers to perform for longer than one hour at suitable George Street locations.

The LMM requests the City consult Sydney's busking community in the review, including through social media and face to face meetings and provide opportunities for buskers to suggest new busking sites and changed arrangements. Where proposals for busking sites may not be possible for safety or amenity reasons, these are to be fully explained to the busking community. The review will also involve Transdev - who operate the light rail on George Street - on the safety implication of any proposed changes.

Following the review, a report on any proposed changes will be provided to Council for approval to re-exhibit the policy and the code, with the aim of increasing busking opportunities as soon as possible in 2026.

Refer to the LMM: [Support for Busking in the City of Sydney](#) and Notice of Motion "[Supporting Busking in the City](#)" on 17 November 2025.

This report outlines the outcomes of targeted engagement activities with the busking community throughout December 2025 and January 2026. Feedback will help inform revision to the policy and code.

Engagement summary

Throughout December 2025 and January 2026, we invited Sydney's busking community to tell us what they think is working well about busking in Sydney, and what they think is not working well about busking in Sydney. We also sought feedback on suitable busking locations in our local area, particularly on George Street and Pitt Street Mall.

A stakeholder email was sent to 476 buskers registered with the City of Sydney to encourage them to provide feedback during the review of the policy and code. They were invited to complete an online survey, and to attend a drop-in session at Town Hall House on Monday 8 December from 12pm-4pm. Messages were sent with this information to all buskers who had previously communicated with us through social media channels.

Flyers with this information were also distributed to buskers at busking locations throughout the city centre including Pitt St Mall, Hyde Park, Circular Quay, Martin Place and along George Street.

An email was also sent to 14 people who made a submission during the public exhibition in July – August 2025 to advise them that a review was underway and any updates to the policy and code would be placed on public exhibition in 2026.

City staff also consulted with Transdev to understand safety implications of busking along George St, next to the light rail corridor, and Placemaking NSW regarding their management of busking in Barangaroo, The Rocks and Circular Quay.

Purpose of engagement

- Inform buskers of the proposed changes to the busking policy
- Explain why the City has proposed the changes to the policy
- Provide opportunities for buskers to provide feedback
- Seek feedback on new busking sites for George Street and other busy parts of the city, like Pitt Street Mall
- Consult with Transdev to understand safety implications

Engagement outcomes

We received **135 pieces of feedback** during the consultation period, including 31 surveys, 101 comments posted by 15 people at a drop-in session, 2 written submissions, and a face-to-face meeting.

Figure 1: Engagement outcomes snapshot

Quantity	Description of activity
101	Comments received by 15 people at drop-in session
1	Face to face meeting
31	Survey submissions
2	Written submissions (including a submission from Transdev)
135	Total

Key findings

Overall summary

The busking community indicated a strong **desire to be included** in any major changes to the busking policy and code, requesting the City of Sydney proactively consult with them during the review of the policy and code.

Clear communication is also needed to ensure changes are not made without buskers understanding how they will be impacted. Buskers asked for a clear explanation of the changes to the policy – such as details of safety concerns raised.

Respondents agreed busking **creates a lively, fun atmosphere**, allows performers to express their talents and shows diversity in culture. Feedback noted the popularity of busking, drawing crowds in person and millions online who watch them on livestreams every day, and that weight should not be given to the minority of people who complain about busking.

Feedback highlighted the desire to reinstate the **previous busking policy and code**, and the need for flexibility, as people who are homeless, begging, preaching or unlicensed performers (eg. TikTok dances) often occupy busking spots which make them unusable. There was a strong desire for no dedicated pitches on George Street, or dedicated busking ‘areas’ rather than specific ‘spots’. Some argued a one-hour time limit should only apply in popular areas where there are busking queues (such as outside QVB and Woolworths, and Pitt Street Mall), otherwise two-hours is preferable to allow enough time for set up/pack down. Solo musicians with amplified vocals felt they should not be considered a ‘high impact’ act and asked for the recent change to low vs high impact acts to be reassessed.

George Street is an important street for buskers to perform, especially at Town Hall, QVB, in front of Event cinemas, KFC and World Square. Buskers told us George Street worked well under the previous policy and code, where busking was available anywhere along the street, giving them freedom to pick their spot.

Busking safely on George Street alongside the light rail is important. Guidance was sought on how buskers can set up their act safely along the light rail – such as buskers orientated with their backs toward light rail so audiences are positioned away from the light rail and don’t linger on the tracks. Another requested permission to busk on George Street during the road and light rail closures associated with events like Vivid and New Years Eve.

Pitt Street Mall is another popular location for busking. The reduction in spots now available at Pitt Street Mall for “low impact amplified buskers” was raised as an issue, with calls for the Special Busking Sites under the previous policy to be reinstated. Buskers requested disruptions from Christmas activations be minimised. For example, audio of Christmas carols was being regularly played in the mall disrupting buskers performing – suggesting this should be programmed after closing hours especially on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Many buskers raised concerns about **preachers who are disruptive**. It was suggested that a separate location be set aside for preachers away from popular busking spots or ensure they don’t use amplification next to the busking spots. More action by rangers is needed on this issue.

They would also like to see more **advocacy and support**, including a dedicated busking liaison – following the example of Melbourne’s busking team. And would like to see busking included in entertainment programs of festivals and events run/funded by the City of Sydney.

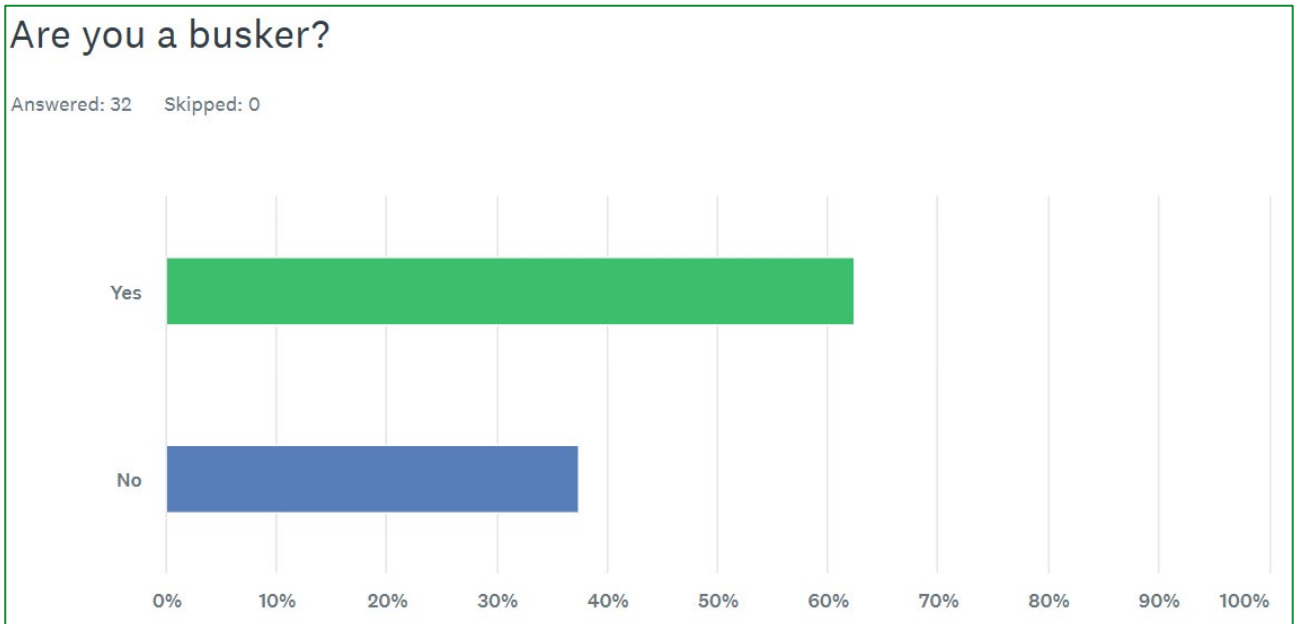
Online survey

31 surveys were completed. Respondents answered 11 questions, responses to these questions are outlined in the below graphs and commentary.

Q.1 Are you a busker?

63% of people who completed the survey selected 'Yes' to this question, and 37% selected 'No'.

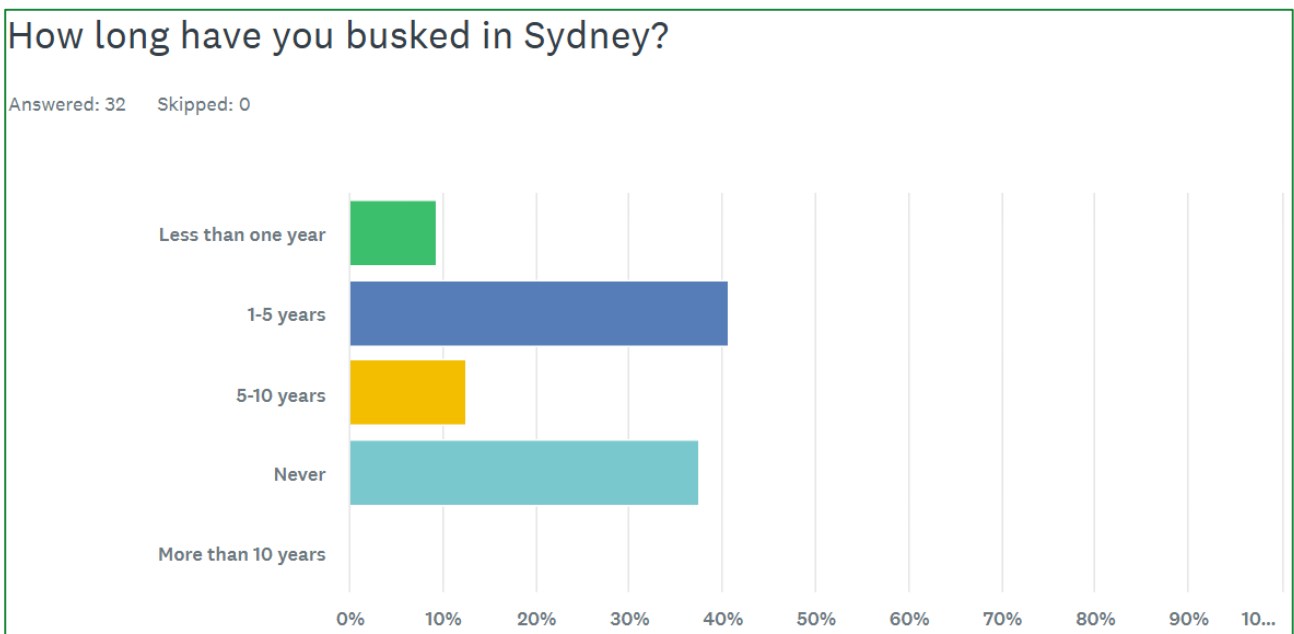
Image 1: Are you a busker?



Q. 2 How long have you busked in Sydney?

About 40% of people surveyed have busked in Sydney for 1 – 5 years, 38% have never busked, 13% have busked for 5 – 10 years and 9% have busked for less than one year.. Responses to this question are shown in the below graph.

Image 2: How long have you busked in Sydney?



Q. 3 What do you think is working well about busking in Sydney?

Respondents agreed busking creates a lively, fun atmosphere and an enjoyable environment. It allows performers to express their talents, sing in different languages, showing diversity in culture and adding vibrancy to the city. People also commented on the popularity of busking, drawing groups of people who watch them play music they can enjoy for free, and that millions of people from around the world watch buskers on livestreams every day.

It was noted that it's easy to obtain a busking licence at the City of Sydney compared to other authorities that require buskers to get their own insurances which is complicated and expensive.

Responses indicated busking was working well before the most recent busking policy changes. In particular, George Street worked well under the previous policy and code, where busking was available anywhere along the street. George Street is an important street for buskers to perform.

"I think busking was working well before the most recent busking policy changes."

"Prior to the code change - honestly i had no complaints."

The freedom for buskers to pick their spot, with a flexible time limit is also important.

A one-hour time limit in popular areas where there are busking queues such as outside QVB and Woolworths was noted as working well.

Other comments expressed disappointment about busking in Sydney, noting there was *"nothing at the moment"* that was working well, and called for the previous policy to be brought back. It was noted that busking used to provide income for buskers but now it doesn't.

Another comment called for more protection for buskers forced to stop playing because of complaints made by the same people at 8pm on a Friday night.

Q. 4 What do you think is not working well about busking in Sydney?

Many respondents mentioned there are not enough spots to busk, especially in desirable locations such as city centre areas with high pedestrian traffic.

They commented that recent infrastructure changes and placement of pitches means they are not in ideal places.

Buskers called for more flexibility, particularly on George Street, where busking spots are often occupied by other activities such as people begging, preaching, protesting, people who are homeless or other activities. Particular mention was given to unpermitted TikTok dancers and preachers who disrupt busking activity, with buskers calling for rules to be put in place for them.

Lack of available spots creates long wait times for buskers, can cause conflict among buskers competing for available spots, reduces the amount of work available and impacts buskers' income.

Respondents called for more busking spots on George Street.

"There are not enough spots to busk. George Street should be opened back up again and there should rather be one or two RESTRICTED spots if needed rather than the whole strip being restricted and only allowing 6 spots for a 2.5km strip. We need to be able to be flexible with where we set up given the numerous protesters/tiktok dancers/religious preachers/homeless people we share the space with."

It was suggested that more action is needed to stop buskers and unpermitted users (such as *"homeless people who play instruments"*) who camp at a pitch all day, monopolise pitches and *"bully"* others who want to play there. One respondent mentioned that some buskers put their gear at a pitch but don't play for hours sometimes waiting for the premium time.

Respondents highlighted the need for more protection for buskers from abusive behaviour, which they feel can be reduced by returning to the previous code or reasonable patrolling.

“the biggest issue I have is safety. Previously if there was a homeless person or a beggar where i wanted to sing i would simply move on, i can no longer do this leaving me with the option to not busk or be borderline abused. I have been yelled at and verbally abused, had money stolen and my equipment thrown multiple times, again previous i would just move away, but i cannot longer do this, leading to putting myself in dangerous situations”

“the town hall and qvb spots clash so much. The pitches are too close and when two people play at an average volume the sounds clash, it doesn’t sound good, but again there’s no other choice than to play at the same time currently if we want to busk in these areas –

I know council have no control but the preachers are a real issue. Again, previously i would simply move to another spot, but i do not have that luxury anymore, so the only option is play over the top of preachers, have arguments, be harassed, sounds awful or go home and don’t busk”

The recent change to low vs high impact acts was also raised as something that needs to be assessed, with solo musicians with amplified vocals feeling they should not be considered high impact. It was noted that there is ambiguity about 'low Impact' acts, with information on the website unclear ie. *“either it is without amplification, or amplification that can be turned down.”* Another commented that *“No amplifier at some sites is stupid”*.

The reduction in spots now available at Pitt Street Mall for low impact amplified buskers was raised as an issue.

Having a one-hour time limit was also an issue raised in responses, with two hours preferred at each pitch.

“With the new code in mind - only being able to play for 1 hour is awful, it takes 15 mins to setup, then 15 to pack down - this is basically half of the time we are allowed to busk...”

Respondents commented that the current busking policy and code is reducing the arts and creativity in our community and has reduced trust between buskers and the City of Sydney.

Restrictions on fire performing was also mentioned, with performers noting they reduce the diversity and calibre of circle acts performing in Sydney.

“The restrictions are not working! When I go to Sydney I love seeing and hearing the music play in the streets amongst the chaos of the city noises. It brings joy and happiness to my day when walking in the streets of Sydney”.

One respondent felt it was unfair that rangers move buskers on from busking on George Street at Hay Street because of noise complaints they believe are made by one person.

“I got kicked off by two rangers due to a noise complaint. However, the amount of appreciation I receive is bigger than the noise complaint so I don’t think it’s fair to kick me out because of one person that was not happy about it. I was busking in George Street intersection with Hay Street (close to the Golden Tree). Please note I always busk reasonable hours and with reasonable volume. I also don’t play for more than 2 hours. I understand rangers coming to ask to “reduce” the volume, but not to ask you to move specially if you haven’t even played for one hour.”

Other issues raised include – crowding around buskers spills on to the light rail tracks delaying services, lack of sun safety or weather protection available, lack of seated areas, requests for a busking booking system, and the desire for one busking permit for the whole of Sydney as currently it is very fragmented and you have to get permit from every Council separately, with one busker commenting *“why do I need separate permit for Rocks when I have City of Sydney permit?”*

“There’s no areas with sun or rain cover, i am aware it’s my decision, but i’ve gotten so sun burnt over this summer because the options are busk in the sun or don’t busk, same for the rain...”

“No more seated areas, i used to play at KFC all the time so people could sit down out of the way if they wanted to stay and watch, people now literally sit on the floor as there’s no other option”

A respondent suggested quality controls for buskers, issuing licenses to buskers who have a profile to show their busking quality, and a category of what kind of activity can occur during what time.

Another suggested a busking association or a panel, and discussions held with all buskers who are interested in the City of Sydney’s plan and align visions.

One respondent mentioned not much is not working and *“every audiences are positive and energetic”*.

Q. 5 Where do you like to busk in Sydney?

Popular places mentioned in response to this question included: Pitt Street (both north and south ends), the QVB forecourt, Town Hall in front of Woolworths, and on George Street at KFC, Town Hall, Event cinemas, Regent Place, World Square, and Market City entrance.

“George street is the only street that feels safe to busk in. There is enough space to set up, and allow for pedestrian access, majority of the city streets are not made for this. The idea that “we can busk anywhere else” is silly, have a walk through city streets and you’ll see it’s a lot more dangerous in small side streets. Kfc, QVB side, world square etc are all perfect busking pitches.”

Darling Harbour, Circular Quay, Martin Place, Hyde Park, Central Station and the area from Town Hall to Central were also mentioned.

Chinatown is also popular including: in front of Paddy’s Market, on George Street in front of Starbucks and at the intersection with Hay Street, and at Thai town opposite the Chinatown light rail stop.

General comments included the CBD, places with high foot traffic (ie. *“where office workers, residents, commuters and tourists pass through the most”*), not just any pitches, workable spots, and anywhere that has adequate shade from harsh weather conditions like the summer sun or rain. Another mentioned places where there are no other buskers around *“sometimes even quiet places so that I can have more personal interaction with people who pass by.”*

The below comments were received by people who like to watch buskers:

“I like seeing busking happening in the city”

“George street is the best place to watch them.”

“I’m not a busker myself but I would like buskers to somehow regain their popular busking spots”.

Q. 6 Where do you think would be suitable for busking but is currently not available to buskers?

Many respondents to this question mentioned the areas recently restricted, particularly referring to George Street and Pitt Street Mall.

Comments included:

“Please reverse the new laws as there was never an issue with busking before in those areas.”

“Give all the old spots back and any spot that has high traffic should be made. For the people and buskers and city’s sake.”

Anywhere along George Street was mentioned, specific locations on George Street that were raised included – Town Hall, QVB, in front of Event cinemas, KFC and World Square.

For example:

“George street south of QVB. It is wide and a significant amount of tourists and workers are passing through, giving a large exposure. This area is also wide enough so people can reasonably gather without affecting the light rail. Since busking there from 2023, I had yet to witness a single incident where the crowd interferes with the light rail and people are aware of the light rail most of the time.”

Another comment raised several areas “away from the light rail tracks” including – the intersection of George and Market streets, intersection of George and Liverpool streets, intersection of George and Goulburn streets, along George Street between Liverpool and Goulburn streets, and around Wynyard (although there is currently a lot of construction in that area).

Another ‘old area’ mentioned was “in front of Starbucks and in the corner with the Golden Tree area. These areas always worked well for many buskers. The new restrictions affected mostly the “smaller” buskers that don’t go to big pitches (such as Pitt Street).”

The original spots in Pitt Street were also referred to in numerous comments.

Martin Place, Darling Harbour, North Sydney, in train and metro stations and during events (VIVID) were also mentioned.

For example:

“In train stations, especially the new Martin Place metro, more promoted opportunities or booking systems or auditions during VIVID.”

Others commented more generally such as “high traffic foot areas”, or “any area that is not directly exposed to traffic noise and has some crowds” and “anywhere with adequate shade from harsh weather conditions like the summer sun or rain.”

Further comments included:

“I don’t think there should be restrictions on where they can set up, I think they should be able to set up anywhere as long as they aren’t in the way or in a dangerous spot.”

“We would like some permanent umbrellas to shade our sorry asses in summer. Also platforms the height of a milk crate to give greater distance between random druggies and insane people who come and try to hug us.”

Q. 7 Where do you think is unsuitable for busking in Sydney?

Several respondents agreed that it is unsuitable to busk in areas without sufficient foot traffic.

Comments included:

“Only place not suitable is in the middle of a walkway, on the road or on the tracks”.

“Anywhere there is less than a meter to pass by”

“Anywhere that doesn’t impede people or stop them from going on with their business is suitable.”

“Most places actually, because of a number of factors - poor foot traffic - poor lighting - not enough space.”

George Street north of QVB was specifically mentioned in one comment as being unsuitable:

“George Street north of QVB is unsuitable because the footpath narrows and creates genuine pinch-points. In this section, both audiences and performers are more likely to drift closer to the light rail alignment without realising it. The concerns raised in the recent restrictions genuinely apply here, and the narrow width makes safe crowd management difficult.”

Areas too close to the light rail were also mentioned in a number of comments, such as:

“Any areas within 10m of light rail tracks.”

“Close to light rail. On busy corners where buskers would impede pedestrian flow. Also it can be dangerous to busk too close to the traffic.”

“I concede that the light rail on George Street does warrant strict guidelines.”

“I admit some areas along George St shouldn’t have buskers as they push crowds to lightrail.”

In contrast, a few respondents either couldn’t think of any areas being unsuitable or referred to “nowhere” being unsuitable.

For example:

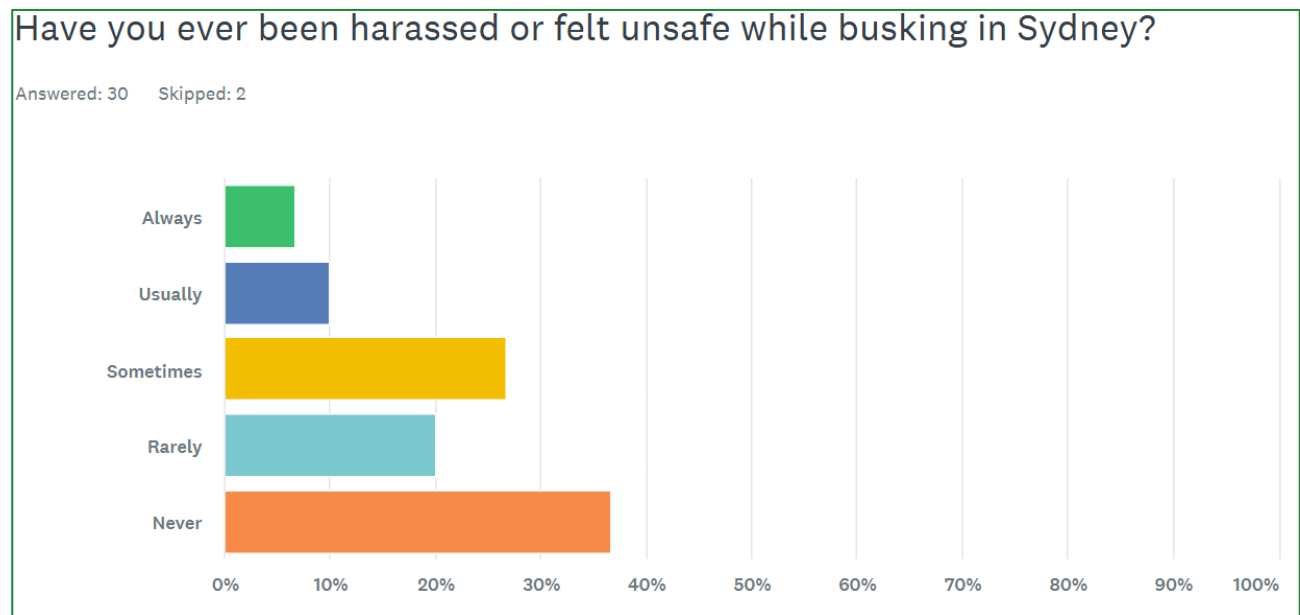
“I think all spots are suitable and workable. Buskers also have always been able to keep safe entertainment for pedestrians. I don’t see any concerns. The religious groups make it unsuitable for any buskers when they can play amplified music at any noise level any time This affects buskers a lot especially since buskers can’t busk unless x metres apart.”

Other areas mentioned as being unsuitable included – in a really quiet suburb, and “QVB, Pitt street, areas that doesn’t attract any audience and would cause impact to people dining and shopping” and “in areas which are busy. I think people who busk there are greedy.”

Q. 8 Have you ever been harassed or let unsafe while busking in Sydney?

About 64% of respondents have been harassed or felt unsafe either ‘always’ (7%), ‘usually’ (10%), ‘sometimes’ (27%), or ‘rarely’ (20%). Whereas 37% respondents have ‘never’ been harassed or felt unsafe. Responses to this question are shown in the below graph.

Image 3: Have you ever been harassed or felt unsafe while busking in Sydney?



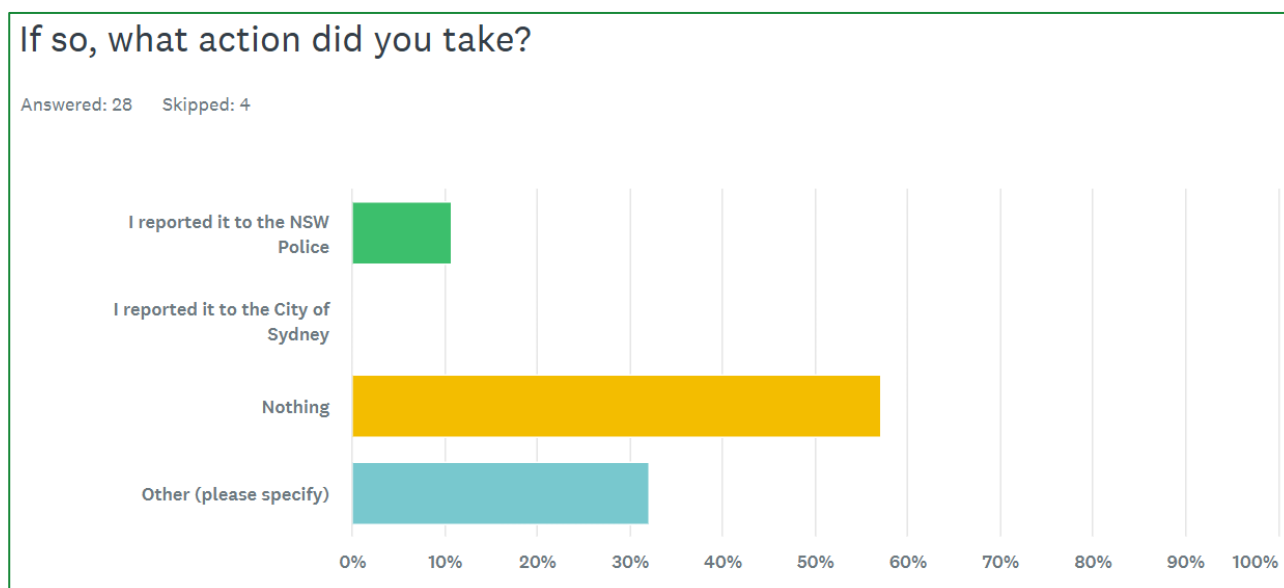
Q. 9 If so, what action did you take?

Most respondents who have been harassed or felt unsafe while busking in Sydney took ‘no action’ (57% respondents), while 11% reported it to the NSW Police and 32% took ‘other’ action. No one (0%) reported it to the City of Sydney.

Of the 32% who took ‘other’ action, this included – de-escalating, carrying on performing if there’s no security or police nearby, grabbing their things off the person, stopping performing and asking the person to move away in a loud voice, and giving a warning before escalating to the police or 131444. One respondent noted that police attended spontaneously when “*I was robbed and bashed*” and wondered if someone had called them or if they were passing by.

Responses to this question are shown in the below graph.

Image 4: If so, what action did you take?



Q. 10 Please provide more details of any issues or safety concerns

Issues raised by respondents who answered this question included – being harassed by people affected by drugs and alcohol, people with mental health issues, rowdy teenagers, people who are homeless or people who are ‘beggars’. Respondents mentioned being robbed, spat on, sworn at, experiencing racist slurs and sexual harassment. Busking equipment being thrown or damaged was also mentioned.

Comments included:

“I don’t think it’s the councils responsibility to keep buskers safe - we choose to go out, but before the new code it was easy to avoid situations. Now buskers are having confronting conversions when beggars etc are in the few busking pitches because we literally cannot play anywhere else without being kicked out. As i’m writing this survey, i left busking early because i was being harassed by a beggar that wanted the spot i was busking in (infront of woolies town hall, 1 out of 2 pitches in town hall)”

“It’s difficult to report a dangerous person if you have no evidence or don’t know their name. Some just yell racial slurs at me / one has taken \$5 and just left. It is intimidating as a young female busking sometimes so I just leave it for my safety.”

“It’s hard to stop people spitting at buskers or kicking over our equipment or even stealing our money. Unless a policeman is permanently standing beside us then nothing can be done.”

Chinatown, Pitt Street near Woolworths, north of QVB, south of Wynyard station, and The Rocks were areas mentioned where respondents have felt unsafe or experienced harassment:

“I’ve been harassed by beggars and also old men. I always have to negotiate with beggars and give them money in order to play. Specially in China Town area. I got spat on once by an old guy. Other time a guy was racist and told me to “go back to my country”. All these situations happened in China Town.”

Another issue raised was regarding people who make noise complaints against buskers and rangers who respond to these complaints.

Comments included:

“Buskers would really like to have their popular busking spots back and not have ‘certain people’ complaining that it’s ‘noisy’.”

"My biggest absolute biggest concern is the rangers and city being cowards and cowering (sic) to rich entitled people who call and complain to shut down buskers. How absolutely embarrassing that you let a handful of people bully you and making you submit to their will. Be brave and stand up for live music and buskers...."

"I live in America. I watch buskers from Sydney on tik tok. The entire reason I would ever go to Sydney would be to see buskers and watch them and support them all day long. I'm not alone. Look at Edinburgh fringe festival in Scotland. It is a busker fest that so many people attend. Sydney could be this all year round...."

"Shame on you for adding a add pay kiosk where buskers used to play."

One respondent requested something be done with illegal, unlicensed selling on George Street – *"Please do something for illegal non licensed sellers on George St"*.

Safety concerns raised by respondents referred to light rail, particularly *"crowds spilling onto the light rail tracks."* For example:

"Sometimes people without undercover residence may come near us where the majority of them resides north of QVB, which further pinches the possible busking zone. This is the case at least south of Wynyard station. They also, sometimes, engage in disruptive behaviour which equally effects the safe operation of the light rail."

However, one respondent commented there were *"no safety concerns. If people are standing on the light rail tracks that's an issue caused by themselves or the city. Afterall, it's not the buskers fault there's a train on the sidewalk with no physical boundaries."*

Q. 11 Do you have any other feedback about our busking policy?

Advocacy and support for buskers

Respondents mentioned they would like to see more advocacy and support for buskers, including a dedicated busking liaison, for example:

"Would love to see more support and advocacy for buskers from the council. Bi-monthly meetings, a dedicated busking liaison, notification system for complaints so buskers can deal with problems without cops needing to be called, alternative safety measures installed instead of bans, notifications not just of pitch closures but of funding and gig opportunities for council events."

"Every single busker WANTS TO BUSK!!! we want to do it safely, we want to work with the council, we want people to enjoy what we provide, we are more than willing to work with council if you just give us the opportunity. It's so sad to see what's happened to sydney :((((("

Consultation and better communications

Also mentioned was the need for more consultation and better communications with performers. Speaking with buskers in person (not just via email) is also important to ensure they are represented when changes to the busking policy/code are made.

Comments included:

"The more consultation with performers like this the better! Please reassess your process of safety assessments for high impact/ dangerous acts- currently I have tried to set up a safety assessment and no response! Therefore we have not been able to work in City of Sydney. And puts off international acts from visiting. Look at City of Melbourne as an example."

"The original communication with buskers was extremely poor. Not many received or read the email that was sent and the council didn't seem to notice when only a very small number of submissions were received and no one showed up to supposed meetings. Flyers delivered in person along the busy pitt street mall on a Saturday would have been the logical solution if a genuine attempt to engage with buskers on the review of the policy was intended."

"It's possible that the council needs to ensure their email list of buskers is correct. I think that's what's caused the strong reaction from most buskers who seemingly were not consulted due to not receiving emails from council. I don't have that issue!"

"Can surveys like this be disseminated not just through email? These things can get lost in electronic communication. I think a lot of us would be happy to be approached in person."

More flexibility & return to the previous busking policy / code

Several responses called for the return of the previous busking policy and code, and to bring back previous popular busking locations or create more busking opportunities. The need for greater flexibility was also noted. One comment mentioned the one-hour time restriction is not practical for buskers and two hours would work better.

Comments included:

"Stop the restrictions"

"Reverse all and put everything back the way you found it. You are ruining present and future buskers and peoples happiness with your terrible decisions"

"Please review and bring back the signature spots for busking"

"We want busking every where in sydney don't touch busker please."

"Get you act together and give us more busking opportunities please."

"Instead of banning the locations, latest time can be change to 10-11 instead 12 midnight."

"I support a safety-based approach, but I believe the current blanket restriction does not accurately distinguish between areas of genuine risk and areas that have operated safely for years. George Street south of QVB is wide, well-managed and consistently safe for busking, whereas the northern end presents the real pinch-points. A more flexible, location-specific model would maintain safety while still supporting the performers who contribute to the cultural life of the city. I would welcome further consultation that includes regular buskers who understand how the street actually functions day-to-day. For behavioural issues by other buskers. I suggest increasing patrolling instead of kicking us out."

Issue with 'preachers'

Respondents raised several issues with loud, unlicensed 'preachers' in the city centre, who they feel are the cause of people's frustration, not buskers.

Comments included:

"Buskers were never an issue and have always been an amazing part of the central city. I am extremely disappointed as someone who lives in the CBD and I am embarrassed of living in a city that makes restrictions like these without any good reason. Please focus more on the noise levels of preachers near town hall. They're louder and more frustrating than buskers, and they actively harass young school girls and other members of the public. Busking has never been the issue, preaching is the real issue."

"Change it back or increase a lot more spots in high traffic cbd city Especially for amplified So many shop owners have come out an expressed they love the singers and buskers How they wish they could be there all day So many are upset and frustrated by the preachers religion groups who are allowed to blast music all day any day loud as they want no rules at all and do it when buskers are trying to make a living it's not fair."

"The ones who are not bound to the busking code such as preachers are still allowed to be out there wherever they want causing the same level of disturbance. It just needs to be reversed, it's really that simple..."

Queuing, rotations and booking system

It was noted that it can be hard to get into a queue to play at popular locations such as Pitt Street Mall and a 'rotation' system or assistance from rangers would help ensure everyone can busk there.

Comments included:

"It can be very hard to get into a queue to play in Pitt street. I do think a common sense and "rotation" in the spots between buskers would be ideal for everyone's experience. I am not sure how, but I do think buskers shouldn't be playing every single day in the same spot. At least I try not to do it (I also busk in Circular Quay and Chatswood). What I see is that the new restrictions affected mostly those musicians that makes a living from busking in spots that others don't want to go to, for example in China town area as we have been kicked out by rangers. I think more rangers "assisting" everyone to get a chance to play in Pitt Street and less rangers kicking buskers out from other spots."

"There should be a booking system to avoid fighting over good spots. This also gives you good statistics."

Pitt Street Mall

One respondent mentioned that the southern pitch in Pitt Street Mall should be reassigned back to low impact.

Busking permits

Two responses received were about busking permits, including:

"All good => Maybe, can you make the licenses free? Any more vibrancy funds you can allocate to offset the costs of making busking licences free? ;)"

"Busking policy is quite good, with clearly defined rules, if only we could have a universal permit that is valid throughout the whole Sydney."

Drop-in session

15 people attended a drop-in session at City of Sydney offices at Town Hall House on Monday 8 December 2025 from 12pm-4pm.

They posted comments onto several consultation boards around the room, including a board asking what is working well about busking in Sydney.

What is working well about busking in Sydney?

Buskers indicated a preference for the previous busking policy and code – commenting that they had no issues with it, and requesting it be reinstated. Buskers also commented that 1 hour time limit in Pitt Street Mall works well for that location.

The below table summarises comments received.

Table 1: What is working well about busking in Sydney?

Comment	Times raised
One hour limit in Pitt Street Mall is good/ok	3
No faults with previous policy and code / would like the old policy back	2
The process to get a license is very easy	1

Comment	Times raised
I enjoy having no booking system. Show up and play	1
Going from spot to spot progressively down the street	1
Good time to busk (early morning, 11am-1pm)	1
Thank you for being receptive to feedback	1
Well trained enforcement, discretionary powers	1
Long policy and code don't work. Buskers need key messages/principles to follow	1
Rule: Buskers to manage their audience	1

What is not working well about busking in Sydney?

Buskers were also asked what is not working well about busking in Sydney. They indicated a desire for more busking spots on George Street and a preference for not having designated spots on George Street – noting that designated spots are often occupied by people begging or preaching, TikTok dancers performing without permits, or other activities such as construction work. Having only six spots on George Street has increased tension among the community due to limited availability.

Other comments included allowing a 2 hour limit on George Street, to factor in the time required for set up and pack up. The below table summarises comments received.

Table 2: What is not working well about busking in Sydney?

Comment	Times raised
One hour restriction on George Street. It should be two hours on George Street. Set up/pack up eats into your time.	5
There should be more spots on George Street. Limited spots. Having only 6 designated spots on George St is hard because it depends on what's happening on the day (closures, protests, preachers, homeless). Tension has really increased as no other spots available nearby.	5
Not allowing buskers to choose their own position. We are forced to place next to construction, dangerous homeless etc. There should not be allocated spots on George Street (flexibility) Problem with designated spots can't adapt eg. homeless people occupying spot. No designated spots on George Street	4
TikTok dancers/K-pop/BIS dance groups performing in Pitt St Mall without license on weekends are loud and don't account for buskers	3

Comment	Times raised
Preachers at Pitt St Mall are very loud.	3
On a Saturday the gospel music near Town Hall makes the Woolies spot unplayable.	
After Pitt St, Town Hall corner is the most popular spot but Saturday preachers make it unusable.	
Christmas music in Pitt St Mall is too loud.	3
Christmas music in Pitt St Mall competes with buskers would have been good to invite buskers to do Xmas music.	
Abuse from homeless/intoxicated people.	2
Get yelled at by people begging if go over the time.	
Circle acts need fire. Fire priority (Fri-Sat-Sun and event and holidays)	2
Fire performing should be allowed.	
On majority of key days such as Vivid, Christmas period etc busking is blocked by activations and other things.	2
Sometimes competing with markets and activations.	
Contacting buskers for Council gig events.	3
More frequent comms with Council. They send us gig opportunities.	
Not policing illegal shops and religious groups.	2
Rangers don't support compliance.	
Woolies v QVB spots can't operate at same time. Woolies & QVB could work as 1 hour alternating spots would give each busker time to set up & pack down	1
High impact performance. Move back to low impact for solo performers.	1
Don't police current policy	1
QVB security misinformed about rules	1
Advertising triffids	1
Feels like busking energy has gone	1
Online permit system	1
Reimburse buskers for 1 year as compensation over this period	1

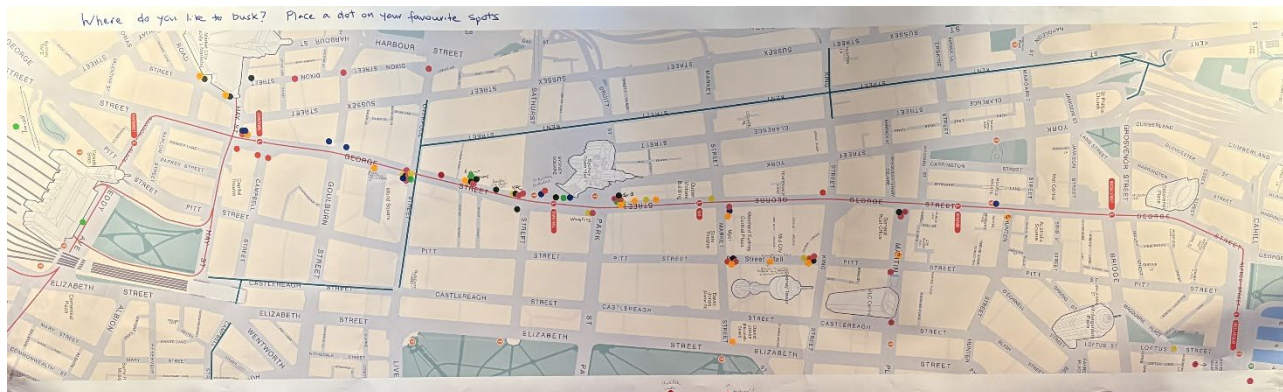
Where do you like to busk in Sydney?

People were asked to put a dot on a large map of the city centre at spots where they like to busk.

The most popular locations to busk indicated on the map included Pitt Street Mall, and several locations on George Street, particularly between World Square and Market Street – such as outside QVB, outside Woolworths building, and outside KFC, Event cinemas and World Square.

Other popular locations on George Street were at Hay Street and around Haymarket. These are indicated in the image below.

Image 5: Where do you like to busk in Sydney?



Where else do you like to busk?

Buskers were also asked where else in the city they like to busk. George Street when light rail is not running, Martin Place near the Christmas tree/activations and Circular Quay were other locations mentioned more than others. The below table summarises comments received.

Table 3: Where else do you like to busk?

Comment	Times raised
On George St during light rail closure	2
Better uplift during events in closed road	
Martin Place at George Street is not allowed but would like it opened up as a basking spot (December crowds)	2
Next to the Christmas tree at Martin Place	
QVB outside Haigh's	2
George Street along QVB where there's shelter from rain and wind	
Circular Quay and near passenger terminal	2
Pitt Street Mall at Mid City Centre	1
Pitt Street Mall middle pitch is a smoking hazard. There are constant smokers near bins, please move bins if this spot is to stay	1
Sydney Town Hall (but preachers are there)	1
Eddy Ave – early morning	1
Haymarket	1
Hay Street	1

Comment	Times raised
Campbell Street outside Starbucks	1
Dixon Street during night markets	1
CBRE Darling Harbour	1

What makes a good busking spot?

Buskers were also asked what makes a good busking spot. Comments included areas where there are lots of people, shops and seats for people to sit and relax. Busking in areas where there is shade and protection from rain, sun and wind is also important. Buskers noted their equipment is heavy to carry around so they prefer to busk near transport such as Town Hall station. Busking outside World Square is also popular as World Square has storage facilities for equipment.

Table 4: What makes a good busking spot?

Comment	Times raised
George Street with shelter from rain and wind.	3
Shade in summer is important.	
Shade for sun and rainy conditions.	
Close to transport as equipment is heavy.	2
Near transport (Town Hall station) as have heavy equipment.	
Spot for audience to sit down.	2
Nearby seats	
Need flexibility – things like homeless people	1
George Street from World Square to QVB at Market Street (shops, seats, people)	1
High foot traffic. People who are relaxed, having dinner, chilling. Not people getting off work, busy people travelling	1
Near storage ie. World Square has storage facilities for equipment so busking nearby is popular	1
S.P.A accreditation - clarity	1
KFC favourite spot, lots of seats and Event cinemas	1
Back to wall	1
QVB by the statue	1
QVB & Woolies is good but homeless occupy these spots	1
George Street as it's pedestrianised and there's more footpath space on both sides	1

Comment	Times raised
Busking 4-6 hours in 2 hour slots along George Street in one day	1
Thursday nights at Pitt St Mall north and south pitch	1
Pitt St Mall middle pitch's good sound	1
1 hour limit in Pitt St Mall should stay, but more pitches	1
Book-in to use Martin Place stage	1
Martin Place and George Street Circle Acts good.	1
QVB sth forecourt for circle acts	1
2 hours is good	1
George St: buskers with back to tracks to avoid people on tracks.	1
Use light rail tracks when closed	1
QVB & Woolies 1 hour alternating	1
Classify busking area rather than 'spot'	1

Face-to-face meeting

One member of the busking community requested to meet with City staff in person to provide feedback. The below summarises the feedback received during this meeting on 3 December 2025.

How long have you been busking? Since 2020

Where do you like to busk in Sydney?

- Corner Hay & George Street, opposite Bank of China
- George Street – outside Woolworths, outside QVB, outside flight centre, outside Myer (at George St corner), corner Bathurst and George St outside KFC, Regimental Square

Where do you think is suitable for busking but currently not available?

All locations on George Street and Pitt Street that were previously available under the previous code.

What do you think is not working about busking in Sydney?

Overall, the respondent stated that the current “draconian code” is not working, and requested the busking policy and code revert to the former policy and code.

Specific issues and requests raised included:

- Pitt Street Mall
 - North and south pitches should be reinstated
 - 1 hour per day is not enough time, it should be 2 hours at each location
- George Street
 - Request previous code brought back enabling busking on George Street
 - Does not want allocated spots on George Street (because if pitches are occupied ie. from 'beggars' buskers cannot use them)

- Request 2 hours along George Street
- High impact performances
 - High impact acts should be for large performances, not single acts with amplification
 - Request single acts with amplification return as low impact acts
- Lack of support for buskers
 - Request more support from rangers/compliance officers. The Melbourne model of managing busking is very proactive – kind, respectful, helpful and supportive. Their staff act as mediators liaise with buskers to resolve disputes between buskers, with residents and businesses.

Have you been harassed or felt unsafe while busking in Sydney?

Yes

If so what action did you take?

Reported it to the NSW police

Provide more details of any issues/safety concerns

The respondent spoke of being physically assaulted on multiple occasions, has had unpleasant interactions with “drug addicts” and “beggars”, and requests begging be made illegal and drug addicts removed from the street.

Other comments

Other comments and suggestions raised included:

- Establishing a permit system for “beggars”
- Reimbursing all busking permits for the last 12 months and make them free for the next year
- Not enforcing the new code until the revised policy is adopted
- Not restricting all buskers from desirable spots such as Hay/George Street (outside Bank of China). Only buskers that draw crowds should be restricted from this pitch, if need be.
- Providing buskers with opportunities for paid events (eg ask buskers to indicate if they would like the City of Sydney to share their email address with festival/event organisers)
- Putting up safety fencing along the light rail line to prevent pedestrians from walking onto the tracks

Written submission

One written submission was hand delivered to City staff at the drop-in session. This submission called for reinstating the previous busking policy and code, noted the importance of consulting buskers in changes to the policy and code, and including buskers in the entertainment programs for events run/funded by the City of Sydney. Suggestions for Pitt Street Mall and George Street were also mentioned – this submission is provided in the image below.

Image 6: written submission received

Busking Policy Feedback

- **Reinstate the previous policy:** 3 pitches at Pitt Street Mall with 2 pitches available for musicians + flexible setup anywhere on George Street
 - The time limits should only apply where there are other buskers in the queue who want to perform - use common sense
 - Permission to busk on George Street during the light rail closures without being moved on by the rangers or police
- **Include buskers in any major policy change consultations** proactively and in advance.
 - Make sure someone goes out and talks to buskers and send out clearly worded communications, not something coded under **"Public Exhibit"**.
 - Only make changes after a wider public consultation, e.g. statistical surveys of the wider audience to ensure commensurate weight is given to the general public and not the minority who may complain (e.g. 5 individuals and 3 businesses responsible for more than half of some 200 complaints).
 - Ensure any proposed policy changes are not made unilaterally without communicating what their potential impact is
 - Provide clear rationale and statistics for any claims, e.g. safety. Number of concerns raised, the contents, etc.
- **Proactive, positive outreach and inclusion of the busking community** in the entertainment programs run and funded by the council, e.g. street festivals, etc. A dedicated and enthusiastic staff member who is pro-busking (follow the example of Melbourne's Busking Team)
 - Proactively include pitches for buskers during big festivals such as VIVID

Pitt Street Mall

- Minimise the pitch closures and/or provide alternative pitches for busking during the pitch closures
 - Example: under the new policy, only Central pitch is available to musicians and circle acts. On the surface, Council communications implies 2 out of 3 pitches remain open for busking, in reality none of them are open for 90%+ of the active busking community!
- Minimise disruption to busking through activations and installations
 - Example: the Christmas carols audio comes on every 15 minutes after 6pm. The music disrupts the natural flow of the performance. The music should be programmed to come on after the Mall closing hours at least or especially on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

George Street

- Set aside a separate location for the preachers away from the popular busking spots or ensure they don't use amplification next to the busking spots
- Involve busking community in the design and creation of the new public spaces, e.g. to ensure there is seating, shade, etc. for the audience

Transdev feedback

We consulted Transdev, operators of the Sydney Light Rail, which runs along George Street, to understand any safety implications of busking in areas along the Light Rail corridor.

Transdev acknowledge that busking adds to the fabric of the city and proposes that busking locations are chosen where there is adequate open space and public safety is the primary objective, such as Martin Place, and the open area between St Andrews Cathedral and the southern side Town Hall, away from the tracks.

Transdev data indicates that the city centre is a high-risk location for pedestrian safety, with the majority of light rail near misses and collisions with pedestrians occurring in the CBD.

Large crowds which impede the flow of light rail traffic are mainly reported on George Street, with particular concern about the intersection with Bathurst Street and in the Chinatown area.

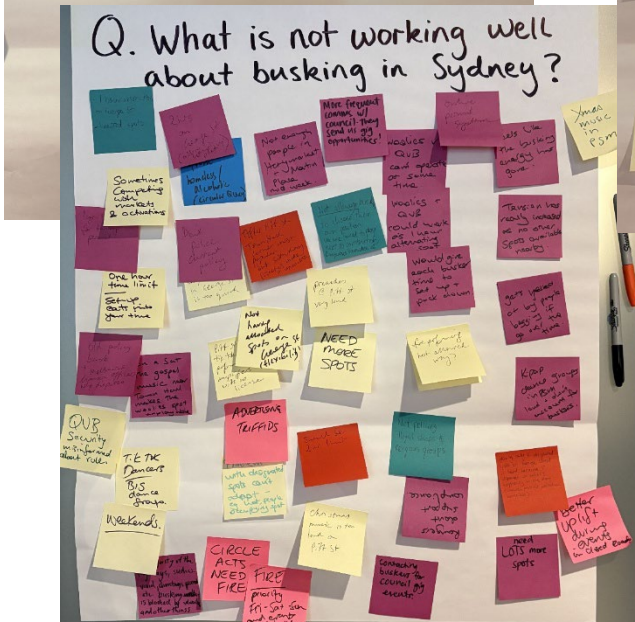
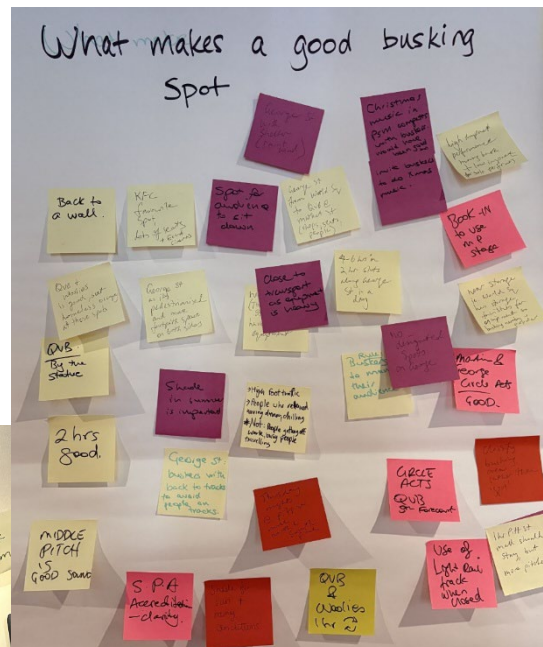
Intersections are particularly problematic, where busking at traffic intersections can impact pedestrian movement, where people move on to light rail tracks more so than in other areas.

Light rail drivers have observed the following:

- Crowds tend to orient their attention towards the busker and away from the light rail tracks
- Crowds tend to grow backwards and do not necessarily realise that they are encroaching on light rail tracks
- People often film or take photos which can distract them from approaching light rail vehicles
- Busking noise can make it hard to hear light rail warning sounds

Other suggestions include delineation via traffic cones/floor markings to help control busking position a safe distance away from light rail vehicles, busking signs and “watch for light rail coming” signs.

Where do you like to busk? Place a dot on your favourite spots



Appendix 2: Stakeholder emails



Invitation to participate in our busking policy and code review

We're now reviewing our [busking policy](#) and the [Sydney busking code](#). These documents guide busking activity in the [City of Sydney local area](#) and outline the rules for using popular sites.

This review will consider and propose new busking sites for George Street, which we'll ask for community feedback on. It will also look at suitable locations for busking in other busy parts of the city, like Pitt Street Mall.

We invite you to participate in this review by joining a drop-in session or completing an online survey.

Join a drop-in session

You can learn more about the busking policy and code, speak with City of Sydney staff about the review and provide feedback.

When: Monday 8 December, drop in anytime from 12pm to 4pm

Where: Town Hall House, 466 Kent Street, Sydney – Green & Global meeting rooms on level 2, next to the customer service centre and city model (entry via Druitt Street or Sydney Square)

Take our online survey

You can also provide feedback by completing our [online survey](#) by 30 January 2026.

Your feedback will help inform any updates to the busking policy and code.

Stay informed

The outcomes of the review including any proposed changes, will be reported to Council for approval to seek public feedback on the policy and the code as soon as possible in 2026.

We'll provide further updates early next year. If you'd like to stay informed, please make sure you have given us an email address that we can contact you on.

More information

You can read more about the review requested on 17 November 2025 by Lord Mayor of Sydney, Clover Moore AO through the Lord Mayor Minute [Support for Busking in the City of Sydney](#).



City of Sydney busking policy and code review

Thank you for your feedback and interest in our [busking policy](#) and the [Sydney busking code](#), adopted by Council in August 2025.

In November, after we received feedback that buskers were not aware of the new policy and code, Council requested staff to review both documents.

This review will consider and propose new busking sites for George Street. It will also look at suitable locations for busking in other busy parts of the city, like Pitt Street Mall.

The outcomes of the review including any proposed changes to the policy and code, will be open for public comment in early 2026.

We'll provide further updates early next year.

More information

You can read more about the review requested by Council on 17 November 2025 through the Lord Mayor Minute [Support for Busking in the City of Sydney](#).

Appendix 3: Flyer

CITY OF SYDNEY 

Have your say

**Buskers, you're invited to talk
about our busking policy and code.**

Join us to discuss our busking policy, code and locations.

You'll get to speak with City of Sydney employees and provide feedback.

A revised busking policy and code will be open for consultation in 2026 before they are adopted by Council.



Take the online survey
Can't make the drop-in session? Feel free to complete the survey.

Drop-in session
When: Monday 8 December, come anytime from 12pm to 4pm
Where: Town Hall House, 456 Kent Street Sydney – Green and Global rooms, level 2, next to customer service. Enter via Druitt Street.

cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au



Attachment B

**Draft Busking and Aboriginal and Torres
Strait Islander Cultural Practice Policy
(amended)**

Busking and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Practice Policy

Acknowledgement

All buskers and cultural practitioners in the City of Sydney perform on Gadigal Land. Gadigal people of the Eora nation, and other First Nations Australians, are custodians of one of the world's oldest continuing cultures, a culture that is practiced, expressed and shared through a tradition of dance, song and storytelling.

Purpose

This policy applies to all buskers and cultural practitioners performing in the City of Sydney.

This policy outlines the criteria for receiving:

- an exemption from approval for practicing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture; or
- an approval to busk, including the conditions of the approval and regulations that apply to busking in the City of Sydney.

This policy aims to support and promote busking culture in Sydney, in balance with the expectations and needs of all users of public space.

The City of Sydney plays two roles in relation to busking:

1. As a creative city that strives to support cultural activity and participation, the City of Sydney supports busking and the contribution buskers make to the city's character and cultural industries.
2. As the governance authority that regulates the use of public space to ensure the safety, amenity and harmonious enjoyment of these spaces for all, the City of Sydney must establish the rules and a regulatory framework for busking on public land.

This policy aims to consider both these responsibilities in equal measure. It was established in consultation with buskers, businesses, residents and visitors to the City of Sydney and members of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. It draws upon learnings from the world's best busking cities.

Scope

This is a Local Approvals Policy under the *Local Government Act 1993 NSW*. It relates to activities under section 68 Part D items 2, 4, 5 and 6 and Part E item 2 insofar as those activities relate to the particular activity of busking or cultural practice.

This policy applies to the City of Sydney local government area. It does not cover areas where the City is not the regulatory authority for these activities, such as:

- areas managed by Placemaking NSW, including Darling Harbour, Circular Quay, the Rocks, Barangaroo and the Goods Line
- areas managed by Transport for NSW including the rail network
- the Sydney Opera House forecourt.
- the Botanic Gardens, Centennial Park and Moore Park.

Part 1 of this policy sets out the circumstances where an approval is not required.

Part 2 of this policy outlines the criteria for giving or refusing an approval to busk.

Part 3 of this policy outlines other matters regarding the regulation of busking.

Principles

This policy and the City of Sydney's approach to regulating busking is underpinned by the following principles:

- Sydney has a strong tradition of busking and buskers contribute to a sense of place and the character of the city.
- Buskers make an important contribution to the cultural life of the city and help build a social city, they create connections between strangers and bring spontaneity to the everyday, in doing so they help reduce isolation and build community cohesion.
- Buskers contribute to the tourist experience of Sydney and drive foot-traffic and commerce in business districts.
- Busking is a legitimate means for professional artists and performers to make income.
- Busking is a legitimate means for hobbyists, amateur performers, enthusiasts or anyone to express themselves creatively in the public domain.
- Busking is an important part of the ecology of the creative industries. It provides a training ground for emerging artists and self-determined work opportunities for established artists. Busking assists with developing new audiences for live music and performance by exposing people to the creative life of Sydney and new avenues for creative participation.
- The practice of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage is a unique and important activity that takes place in the public domain. It has a fundamental purpose of maintaining connection to culture for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. For this reason, it is considered to be a distinct activity and is not included in the City's definition of busking.
- Regulation of busking activity should expect nothing more or less of buskers than any other person or group of people using shared public space.
- Other users of public space, residents, business owners and workers in the city have a right to quietly enjoy the city's open spaces and to not be subjected to extended high volume or repetitive performances audible within their homes or places of work, or to be exposed to unsafe or offensive behaviour.

Definitions

Term	Meaning
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person	A person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent who identifies as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and is accepted as such by the community in which they live.
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Heritage	The intangible and tangible aspects of the whole body of cultural practices, resources and knowledge systems developed, nurtured and refined by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and passed on by them as part of expressing their cultural identity. This heritage is a living one, it continues to develop, and includes items which may be created in the future.
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Cultural Practitioner (“cultural practitioner”)	An Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person expressing Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage, including knowledge and cultural expression such as songs, stories, dances, performing arts and creating artistic works.
Act	The performance or artwork that a busker is making. Can be interchangeable with performance.
Animal	Any bird, fish, insect, reptile or animal other than a human.
Authorised Person	An appropriately delegated employee of the City of Sydney or NSW Police
Busker	Someone performing or creating an artwork in a public place with the intention of entertaining the public for financial reward, but does not include an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander cultural practitioner.
Busking Permit	An official approval granted by the City of Sydney Council that allows an individual to perform music, art or other approved forms of entertainment in public spaces.
Busking Pitch	A site or location where buskers and cultural practitioners perform. Also referred to as a <i>pitch</i> .
City of Sydney	Refers to both the Council of the City of Sydney and the Local Government Area of Sydney. Also referred to as The City. The lower case ‘city’ refers to the place known as Sydney.
Higher Risk Activities	Activities that can be reasonably considered to pose a risk or hazard to the safety or welfare of a member of the public or the person undertaking the activity. This includes performing at heights, acrobatics, the use of live flames or items such as knives, swords, chainsaws and other sharp objects, mallets, chains or other items swung or thrown in the air.
Outdoor Event Approval	A permit issued by the City to use public land for the purpose of an event, promotion or public gathering.
The Sydney Busking Code (Busking Code)	A document which outlines the etiquette expected of buskers and the systems by which Special Busking Sites are shared and managed by the busking community.

Part 1

Exempt from approvals – the practice of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures

The City of Sydney respects and celebrates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage. We recognise that practicing culture is vital to maintaining personal identity and connection to culture for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, as well as sharing cultural knowledge with the community and visitors to Sydney.

The practice of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, outdoors and in public places, can be both an entertainment and an economic activity, but it is primarily the practice of a cultural right, as articulated in Article 11 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People. For this reason, Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people wishing to practice Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander culture in public and on community land are not required to apply for an approval in the circumstances outlined below.

Further information regarding cultural practice can be found in our protocols for the practice of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture in public places.

The following criteria apply to this exemption:

1. **Application**

This exemption applies to the practice of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage (“cultural practice”) by an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person.

2. **Times and Durations**

Cultural practice does not require an approval or a permit:

- i. between the hours of 6am and 10pm
- ii. if taking place for no more than two hours per location per day per individual or group.

3. **Locations**

Sites for practicing culture must not be established in a location that is likely to block access to an entry or exit of a building (including any fire exit), street, laneway or carpark or within 100 meters of a busker or within 100 meters of an approved outdoor event.

4. **Safety**

An adequate perimeter for pedestrian flow must be maintained around any site for practicing culture. Any fire or other higher risk activities that may cause harm to any member of the public must remain within the site and surrounding perimeter.

5. Insurance

Cultural Practitioners are required to maintain adequate Public Liability Insurance coverage for their public activities. Cultural Practitioners may either:

- i. Obtain their own insurance policy and coverage, or
- ii. Register for free cover under the City's Community Engagement Liability Insurance policy by completing a registration form at any City of Sydney customer service centre. Refer to Part 3, Item 16 of this policy for more information about the cover.

6. Queuing

When a busker or another cultural practitioner is already occupying a site, a queue system should be introduced whereby each person or group awaits the completion of the previous performance and then takes their turn.

Cultural Practitioners using Special Busking Sites, as outlined in Part 3 of this policy, must follow the rules of that Special Busking Site.

7. Sales

Cultural practitioners may receive donations from the public and proceeds from the sale of artworks. The sale of artwork must be secondary and only in addition to the practice of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage.

8. Compliance with laws and directions

Cultural practitioners shall comply with all relevant laws, regulations and policies and the lawful directions of Authorised Persons. Authorised persons may restrict any public space from use for practicing culture during special events, emergencies or as circumstance may require.

Part 2

Busking approvals

All people wishing to busk in the City must obtain an approval (Busking Permit) to busk in accordance with section 68 of the *Local Government Act 1993 NSW*. The following criteria apply to approvals to busk:

9. Busking Acts

- 9.1. Busking Acts are categorised by the amount of space and time they occupy in a public place, and the volume and type of sound they are likely to generate.

Busking Acts will fall into one of the following categories:

i. Low Impact

Low Impact Acts have a small footprint in public space and have sound that is easily managed. A Low Impact Act is defined by meeting all of the following criteria:

- a. does not need more than 2m² performance space
- b. does not involve Higher Risk Activities
- c. does not use instruments that are naturally loud, even without amplification, including drums of any kind, bagpipes and brass instruments

Examples of Low Impact Acts may include solo musicians or small musical groups, magicians, puppeteers and other solo performers.

ii. High Impact

High Impact Acts have a large footprint in public space and/or have sound that is harder to manage and/or incorporate activities and equipment that may pose a greater risk to the busker or their audience. A High Impact Act is defined by any one or more of the following criteria:

- a. needs more than 2m² performance space
- b. actively encourages an audience to gather, wait and watch
- c. involves Higher Risk Activities
- d. uses instruments that are naturally loud even without amplification including drums of any kind, bagpipes and brass instruments, ~~involves amplification or~~
- e. features 5 or more performers.

Examples of High Impact Acts may include dance groups, acrobats and circus acts, drummers, bagpipe and trumpet players.

iii. Extended Duration

An Extended Duration Act has a low impact in terms of the space it requires or the volume of sound it generates, however requires a longer period of time to be performed. An Extended Duration Act is defined by all of the following criteria:

- a. the artwork or performance is made continuously and evolves over a period of more than two hours
- b. the artwork or performance is quiet, non-musical and non-amplified
- c. the artwork or performance does not significantly restrict access or use of the public space in which it is created

Examples of Extended Duration Acts may include pavement art, chalk art, durational performance art and human statues.

9.2. The following Acts will not be approved for a Busking Permit in Sydney.

- i. Acts which involve the use of live flames, unless and only if specifically approved in a suitable location outlined in the Sydney Busking Code.
- ii. Acts which involve handing out plastic or paper items that may have an adverse impact on parks, waterways, bird life or marine life, such as balloon sculpting.
- iii. Acts which incorporate any animal, with the exception of a certified assistance animal (as defined by section 5 of the Companion Animals Act 1998) who is supporting the performer but is not a feature of the performance.
- iv. Acts which offer or provide a one-to-one service for a fee such as fortune telling, portrait painting, massage or any other therapeutic service.

10. Permits

10.1. All buskers (or people wishing to undertake busking) within the City of Sydney must obtain a Busking Permit and must agree to comply with the terms and conditions of the Permit and this Policy.

10.2. The City of Sydney issues three types of Busking Permit:

- i. Low Impact Busking Permit, for Low Impact Acts
- ii. High Impact Busking Permit, for High Impact Acts
- iii. Extended Duration Busking Permit, for Extended Duration Acts.

10.3. Low Impact and Extended Duration Busking Permits may be approved by a Customer Service officer of the City of Sydney at the time of application.

10.4. Buskers applying for a High Impact Busking Permit may be required to complete an assessment of their act before a Permit can be issued. An applicant may be requested to attend an onsite assessment, or, at the discretion of City Staff, an assessment may be undertaken remotely via video call or by submitting a recent video.

10.5. Buskers ~~who have previously completed an assessment~~ can renew their High Impact Busking Permit without attending another assessment if:

- i. they have been assessed in the previous two years **or have obtained PASS accreditation (Peer Assessment for Street Safety) from Street Performance Australia**
- ii. their previous permit is current or expired less than six months prior

- iii. their act has not significantly changed since it was approved, and
- iv. they have not received a formal warning or penalty since their last permit was issued.

- 10.6. All members of a group act are required to obtain a permit.
- 10.7. Proof of identity is required with an application for a Busking Permit.
- 10.8. Valid and current telephone and email contact details are required with an application for a Busking Permit.
- 10.9. Proof of parental consent is required for applicants under the age of 18.
- 10.10. Buskers are required to pay a service fee for a Busking Permit. The fees are published annually in the City's register of fees and charges.
- 10.11. If a Busker wishes to perform a combination of Low Impact, High Impact and Extended Duration acts from time to time they may apply for multiple permits ~~at an~~ Assessment.

11. Act Assessment

- 11.1. Any Busker whose act meets the High Impact Act criteria (as outlined in section 9.1. ii. of this policy) may be required to undertake an assessment of their act prior to a Busking Permit being approved.
- 11.2. Assessments are conducted by City Staff and may include an in person onsite assessment of the act in a public space, or may be conducted remotely by video call or by providing a recent and comprehensive video recording of the proposed performance.
- 11.3. The purpose of the assessment is to identify that:
 - i. the busking act can be performed safely and measures are in place to mitigate any potential risks to the performer(s) or public
 - ii. the sound generated by the performance is being monitored and controlled by the performer(s) as best as it can be.
- 11.4. The outcome of an assessment will confirm whether the busking act is approved for a High Impact Busking Permit.
- 11.5. At an assessment, a busking act may be assessed as low impact and offered a Low Impact Busking Permit if the busker can demonstrate that the performance does not meet the criteria of a High Impact Act.
- 11.6. If a busking act is not approved for a Permit, City Staff will provide the applicant with feedback as to why they have not been approved.
- 11.7. If, at an assessment, a busking act is not approved for a Permit, they may arrange to attend another assessment on another day to illustrate appropriate revisions have been made to their act.
- 11.8. The artistic quality of the act or any subjective appraisal of the talent or skill of the performer(s) is not an assessment criteria.

Part 3

Other Matters

Guidelines

The following guidelines apply to busking acts in the City of Sydney.

These guidelines for busking are complemented by the Sydney Busking Code which outlines expected etiquette for street performers, guidance on managing volume and public safety, and the booking and queuing systems that apply to high-traffic Special Busking Sites (see paragraph 15 below) in Sydney.

12. Busking Permits

- 12.1. Buskers must have a valid permit clearly displayed on their person or pitch when busking.
- 12.2. Permits can be issued for a period of one month, three months or twelve months.
- 12.3. Permits are not transferable or refundable.

13. Busking Times

- 13.1. Except where otherwise permitted under the Sydney Busking Code, holders of a Busking Permit may perform:
 - i. 8am – 10pm Sunday to Thursday
 - ii. 8am – midnight Friday and Saturday
- 13.2. Subject to compliance with the Sydney Busking Code:
 - i. Low Impact buskers may busk for up to two hours in any one location per day.
 - ii. High Impact buskers may busk for up to one hour in any one location per day.
 - iii. Extended Duration buskers may busk for up to 8 hours in any one location per day.
- 13.3. Where a site is established as a Special Busking Site under the Sydney Busking Code the times and durations set out in the Sydney Busking Code must be complied with at all times.
- 13.4. Low and Extended duration Buskers who have performed the maximum time in a location on one day may move their performance to another location at least 100 metres from their previous pitch.
- 13.5. High Impact Buskers who have performed the maximum time in a location on one day may move their performance to another location at least 200 metres from their previous pitch
- 13.6. Buskers under the age of 15 must be supervised by an adult whenever busking.

14. Busking Pitches

- 14.1. Buskers with a valid City of Sydney Busking Permit may busk in any public place or footpath under City management with enough open space for their performance to be conducted safely, and a further 2 metres on at least two sides of their performance area for safe pedestrian flow.
- ~~14.2. No busking is permitted within 5 metres of a traffic intersection, pedestrian crossing or light rail unless specified as a special busking site~~
- ~~14.3. No busking activity permitted along George Street, Sydney unless specified as a special busking site in the Busking Code.~~
- 14.4. High Impact buskers conducting Higher Risk Activities must visually demarcate their performance area with a rope or similar boundary placed on the ground.
- 14.5. Busking is restricted to one performance per site at any one time.
- 14.6. Buskers must not busk within 100 meters of another busker (unless busking on a Special Busking Site with multiple busking pitches within 100 metres of each other).
- 14.7. A busking site must not be established where the act or their audience is likely to block or hinder access to an entry or exit of any building (including any fire exit), a street, laneway, carpark, public transport **(including light rail tracks)** node, **pedestrian crossing** or pedestrian thoroughfare.
- 14.8. City Staff may restrict any public space from use for busking during special events, emergencies or as circumstance may require.

15. Special Busking Sites

- 15.1. Some areas in the city are recognised busking locations and have specific, defined busking pitches. These pitches experience high pedestrian traffic and can provide buskers with a very visible performance space and big crowds. In order to provide equitable access to these high-value busking locations for a diverse range of buskers, these Special Busking Sites have certain additional conditions. These conditions are determined by the City and are outlined in the Sydney Busking Code.
- 15.2. Buskers need to familiarise themselves with the locations and conditions of Special Busking Sites in the Busking Code prior to conducting any activities under a Busking Permit.
- 15.3. Temporary Special Busking Sites are occasionally established in association with festivals and events at the discretion of the City and the event owners. **Busking is only permitted within event sites in accordance with conditions provided by the City or the event owner. Those conditions may differ from the standard conditions for a busking permit, and they supersede standard conditions.** ~~Busking permits are not valid within an approved event site. Busking activities are permitted by request and approval within such sites with conditions of performances provided where applicable.~~
- 15.4. The City may establish new Special Busking Sites or amend existing Special Busking Sites from time to time where necessary.

16. Insurance

- 16.1. As long as the busker complies with the conditions of their permit, holders of a Busking Permit are covered for public liability under the City of Sydney's Community Engagement Liability Insurance policy.
- 16.2. The City's policy is limited to \$10 million for any one loss and the busker is responsible for the first \$500 of each and every loss (the excess). This coverage and excess may be subject to change over time. Current details of the liability insurance policy will be made available to buskers on receipt of their permit.
- 16.3. Buskers may prefer to obtain their own public liability insurance. If a busker is covered by their own or any other public liability insurance policy, they will be considered covered by that policy for their busking activities and not the City's Community Engagement Liability Insurance policy.

17. Sales

- 17.1. Buskers may sell their own original music or video recordings, artwork or merchandise as a complement to their performance.
- 17.2. The sale of music, video, artwork or merchandise must not be delegated to another person and must not dominate the time a busker is occupying a busking pitch.
- 17.3. The primary purpose of busking is to perform an act or to make an artwork for the entertainment of the public, any sales of any products must be secondary to this purpose and directly related to the approved busker and their busking act.

18. Other matters

- 18.1. Buskers with a valid permit may perform in any public place under the care and control of the City of Sydney in accordance with the Local Government Act and any other applicable law, this policy and the Busking Code.
- 18.2. Buskers are responsible for their impact on their environment and should take all necessary precautions and actions to limit any risks or hazards they may pose to the public.
- 18.3. Busking acts must not cause a public disturbance or nuisance, whether by the volume or nature of the sound they produce, or the physical impact of the act on other people, property or public space. If a busker is directed to stop or modify their act by any Authorised Person, they must do so immediately.
- 18.4. Where a public space is being used by an event, a retail promotion or public gathering with an outdoor event approval issued by the City of Sydney, buskers must not busk within at least 100 metres of such an event or activity. This includes areas established for the safe dispersal of crowds at major events such as New Year's Eve and Vivid Sydney.
- 18.5. Buskers must comply with all relevant laws, regulations and policies and lawful directions of Authorised Persons. The holding of a busking permit will not constitute a defence where a busker has committed an offence.
- 18.6. The use of political, religious, racist, sexist, sexually explicit, homophobic or transphobic material that may be deemed offensive or discriminatory is prohibited as determined by the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977 (NSW).
- 18.7. Buskers must adhere to the Code of Conduct in the Sydney Busking Code.

19. Suspensions, Modifications, Cancellations and Penalties

- 19.1. In accordance with section 109 of the *Local Government Act 1993* NSW, busking permits may be revoked or modified:
- i. If the permit was obtained by fraud, misrepresentation or concealment of facts;
 - ii. for any cause arising after the granting of the permit which, had it arisen before the permit was granted, would have caused the council not to have granted the permit (or not to have granted it in the same terms);
 - iii. for any failure to comply with a requirement made by or under the *Local Government Act 1993* NSW relating to the subject of the permit;
 - iv. for any failure to comply with a condition of the permit.
- 19.2. A modification may take the form of the imposition of an additional condition or the variation or rescission of a condition to which the permit is subject.
- 19.3. A Busker holding a Low Impact Busking Permit who receives multiple complaints about their act or is repeatedly observed playing at excessive volume or is regularly causing a disturbance to foot-traffic in pedestrian zones may be required to attend an assessment and may have their permit re-issued as a High Impact Busking Permit.
- 19.4. A busker must provide the City of Sydney with a valid means of contact as a condition of their Busking Permit. A permit may be suspended if the City is repeatedly unable to contact a busker using the details provided.
- 19.5. Pursuant to sections 109, 110 and 627 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, City of Sydney may, in certain circumstances, revoke or modify permits or issue an on the spot fine if the permit holder fails to comply with the requirements and conditions of the permit.
- 19.6. A Penalty Infringement Notice may also be issued if a person failed to obtain a valid permit under section 626 of the *Local Government Act 1993* NSW.
- 19.7. In accordance with section 110 of the *Local Government Act 1993* before revoking or modifying the permit, the City will:
- i. give written notice to a busker of its intention to revoke or modify their permit. The notice must contain the reasons for revocation. A copy of the notice should also be served to each person who is likely to be disadvantaged by the revocation or modification; and
 - ii. give the permit holder the opportunity to meet with Council officers to show cause why the approval should not be revoked.
- 19.8. A revocation or modification takes effect on the date of service of the notice of the revocation or modification or a later date specified in the notice.

20. Responsibilities

- 20.1. The implementation of this policy is the responsibility of the Venues Management team of the City of Sydney. Officers monitor and respond to public enquiries or complaints in relation to buskers, manage day to day operations in relation to busking and to the content of the Busking Code.
- 20.2. The issuing of Busking Permits and maintaining a register of buskers is the responsibility of the Customer Service team of the City of Sydney.

20.3. The City’s Rangers will enforce the Busking Policy and adherence of the Busking Code to ensure buskers are compliant with the conditions of their permit.

Consultation

This policy was placed on public exhibition from 24 June to 5 August 2025.

References

Laws and Standards
Local Government Act 1993
Anti-Discrimination Act 1977
Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998
Companion Animals Act 1998
Work Health and Safety Act 2011
United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
Policies and Procedures
Cultural Strategy 2025 - 2035
Eora Journey Economic Development Plan 2016
City of Sydney Event Guidelines 2024
Sydney Busking Code

Review period

This policy will be reviewed within one year of the commencement of a newly elected council.

Approval Status

Council approved this policy on.

Approval History

Stage	Date	Comment	TRIM Reference
Original Policy	13 May 2019	Approved by Council	2019/428176
Reviewed	21 November 2022	Approved by Council	2019/428152
Reviewed	25 August 2025	Approved by Council	2025/599330
Reviewed	TBC 2026		
Commence Review Date	[Governance to populate]		
Approval Due Date			

Ownership and approval

Responsibility	Role
Author	Manager, Cultural Strategy
Owner	Manager, Venue Management
Endorser	City of Sydney Executive
Approver	City of Sydney Council

Attachment C

Sydney Busking Code (amended)

Sydney Busking Code



The City of Sydney acknowledges the Gadigal of the Eora Nation as the Traditional Custodians of our local area.

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The Basics

In Sydney, busking acts are grouped in three categories. Each category has its own set of performance conditions. Busking activities are approved **is regulated** under the Local Government Act, which provides the legal framework for **using public spaces for performances** regulating public performances within designated local areas. **You may only busk if you have been approved for a busking permit**. All individuals engaging in busking **buskers** are expected to adhere to this busking code, which sets out standards for conduct, performance, locations, hours and noise **volume** levels. The purpose of the code is to ensure that busking remains a safe, respectful, and enjoyable activity for both performers and the public.

Low Impact Act

If your act does not:

- Need more than 2m² performance space
- Require an audience to gather, wait and watch
- Include “naturally loud” instruments such as drums, bagpipes, pan pipes or brass instruments, or ~~does not involve amplification~~
- Include higher risk activities like acrobatics or juggling sharp objects

You have a low Impact Act and may busk for up to 2 hours per location per day.

Extended Duration Act

If your act:

- Is quiet, non-amplified and non-musical, and
- Involves creating a work of art continuously over a long period of time such as pavement art or durational performance art

You have an Extended Duration act. As long as your pitch isn't restricting other people from using the area around you, you can perform for up to 8 hours per location per day.

High Impact Act

If your act:

- Needs more than 2m² performance space;
- Encourages an audience to gather, wait and watch;
- Uses “naturally loud instruments such as drums, bagpipes, pan pipes or brass instruments, ~~involves amplification~~
- Includes higher risk activities like acrobatics or juggling
- Features 5 or more performers

You have a High Impact act and may busk for up to 1 hour per location per day.

You'll need to speak to the City of Sydney about an act assessment before you can get a permit to busk. High Impact acts often need more space, hence there are less places where they can perform. Keeping acts to 1 hour duration provides more performers with access to limited larger performance spaces and breaks up the impact of louder acts on our neighbours.

Where to busk

You can establish a busking pitch on any public land in Sydney that meets these criteria:

- There is enough open space for you to conduct your performance plus a further two metres for pedestrian flow on at least two sides of your pitch
- The site is not being used by an approved event or gathering
- You are at least 100 metres from another busker, an approved event or gathering, or a special busking site
- Your pitch and audience does not block access ~~within 5m~~ to the entry or exit of any building, street, **pedestrian crossing, public transport node**, carpark or thoroughfare
- If the location is a Special Busking Site with set pitches and a booking or queuing system, you observe the conditions of the site (see Special Busking Sites on Page 9)

Making and managing a pitch

The pitch is your stage – keep it looking clean, well laid-out and professionally put together.

Minimise clutter or any unnecessary items that might be a trip hazard.

For Low Impact Acts, keep your equipment near to you and encourage your audience to gather close.

For High Impact Acts, consider laying a rope on the ground to show the audience where you want them to gather.

You want them as close as they can be, while still safely outside your performance area.

Equipment and infrastructure must not be left unattended at any time. ~~Infrastructure~~ **Equipment** left unattended at a pitch is not accepted as an approved queuing system **an acceptable way to queue for a pitch.**

For Pavement Artists, use chalk that is entirely removable by water or draw onto a removeable canvas placed over the pavement. Make sure there are no slip hazards and no trip hazards by taping down any edges.

Volume

Performing too loudly can negatively affect neighbouring homes and businesses and drive your audience away.

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

Ensuring that your performance cannot be heard at 50 metres from your pitch is essential. Busking Pitches can be 100 metres apart, and the sound of your act should not affect another busker's performance.

The following are guides to help you monitor if your act is at the right volume. Be aware that an authorised person from Council or Police can tell you to lower your volume or stop performing at any time and you must follow their instruction.

- If you cannot hear any background noise during your performance, you are playing too loud
- If your audience is gathering more than 3 metres from you, you are playing too loud
- If you can see that your audience is shouting to speak to each other, turn it down
- If your performance can be heard 50 metres from your pitch, you're playing too loud. Get 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 you find that no one is paying you any tips, try reducing your volume and see if people become more comfortable approaching you
- 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 loud. Remember, you can reach a compromise but you could have your permit reviewed if you refuse to turn your volume down when directed by the Police or the City.

Content of your act

Sydney buskers are ambassadors for the cultural life of the City and values we celebrate: diversity, generosity, respect and inclusion.

Buskers do not tease, humiliate or harass anyone. Sydney buskers are some of the best in the world. We have innovative, original, expertly performed acts. You must have a varied repertoire and never repeat the same material during a set. If you do not have enough content to fill your time at a pitch without repeating anything, then trim your set to the amount of material you have and move to another pitch.

Sales

The sale of a busker's own music, video, artwork or merchandise is encouraged, but it has to be supplementary to your performance. You can't spruik your products or get someone else to sell them on your behalf. You are at a busking pitch to busk, not to conduct a market stall, and if somebody happens to approach you to buy your music or mech, it's a bonus.

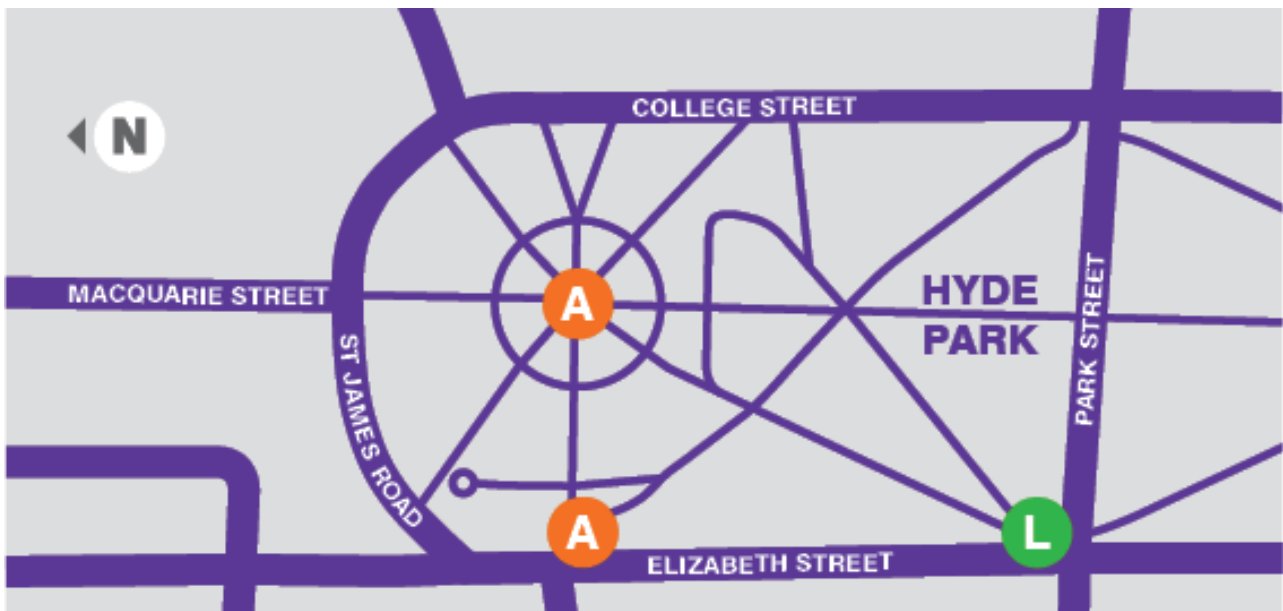
Special Busking Sites

Special Busking Sites have additional conditions or operating systems. All Special Busking Sites are limited to 11am – 10pm, 7 days a week.



Hyde Park

There are three busking pitches in Hyde Park North. One on the paved area facing Market Street, adjacent the St James Station entrance. One on the paved area surrounding Archibald Fountain. One Low Impact pitch by the monument on the corner of Elizabeth and Park Streets.



QVB Forecourt

The Southern forecourt of the QVB may be occupied by one Extended Duration Act and either one Low Impact Act or one High Impact Act at any one time.



Pitt Street Mall

There are three pitches in Pitt Street Mall.

The Central pitch (outside MidCity entry), is for Low and High Impact **Extended Duration** acts only.

The North (near King Street) and South (near Market Street) pitches are for ~~extended~~ **Low Impact** duration acts only. **Buskers may perform at these pitches for one hour only.**

All pitches are allocated on a first-in basis.

Buskers may use only one pitch once per day and not the same pitch on consecutive days.

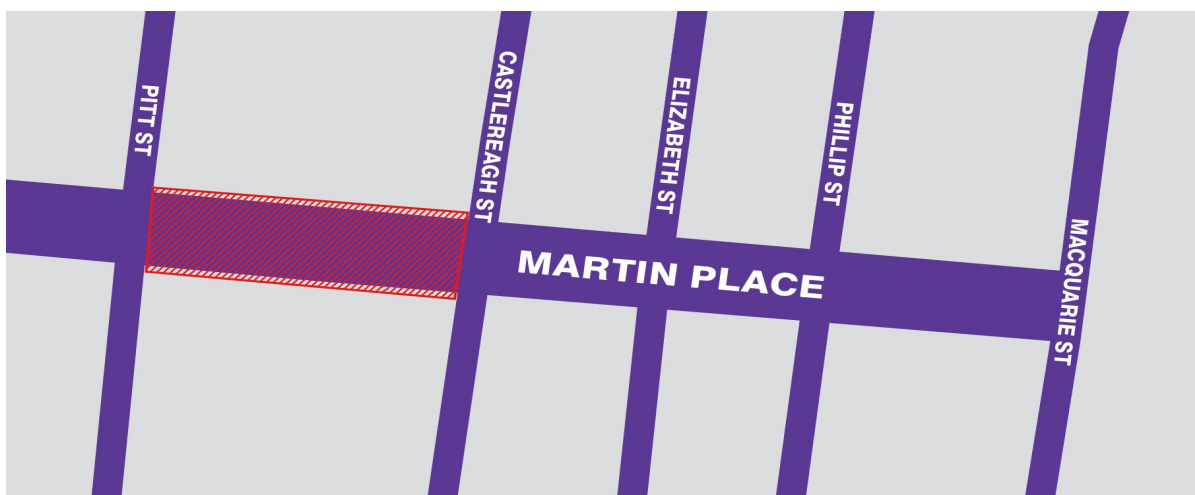
No acts incorporating fire allowed.



Martin Place

No busking is permitted in Martin Place between Pitt Street and Castlereagh Street.

Martin Place is regularly used for retail activations, events and public gatherings. Buskers must be mindful of setting their pitch at least 100 metres from an event or activation.



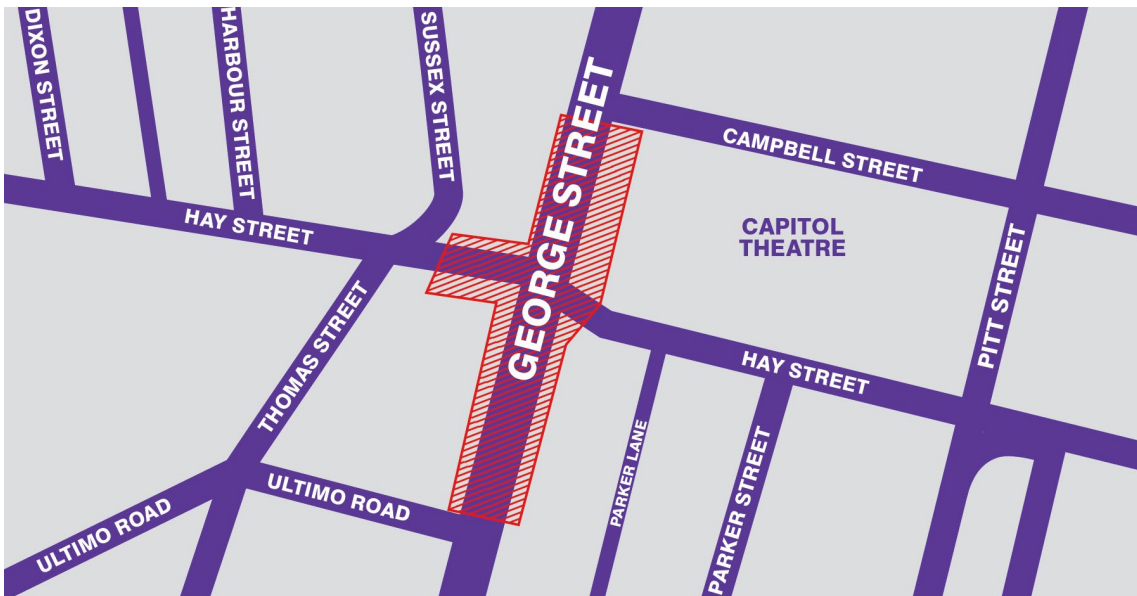
George Street

There are three locations on George Street where busking is not permitted. Busking is otherwise allowed anywhere on George Street in accordance with the criteria in the Busking Policy and conditions of the busker's permit.

Areas where busking is not permitted.

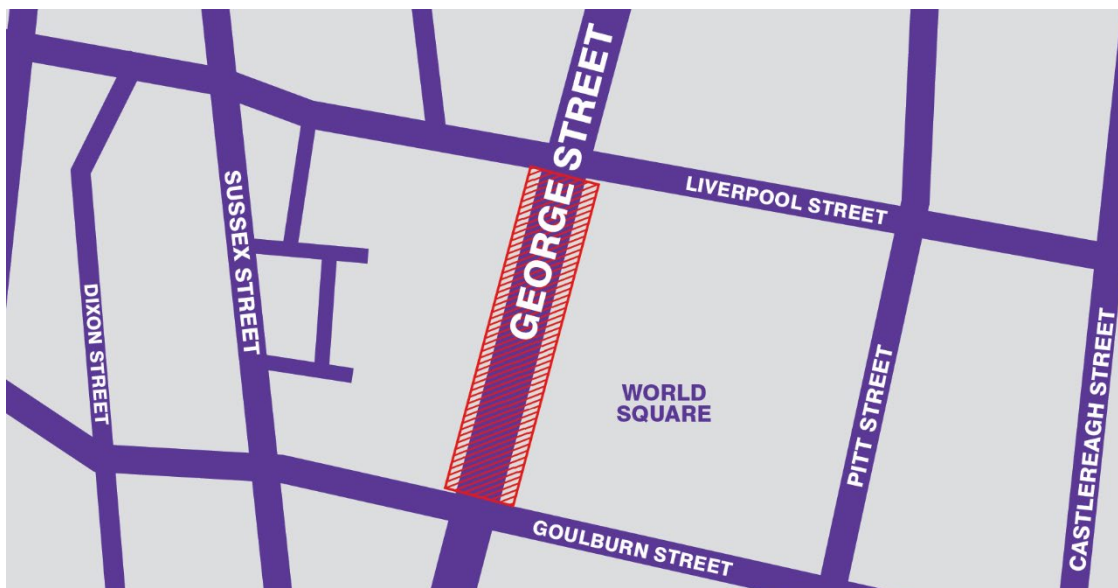
*The intersection of **George Street and Hay Street**, within 50 metres of all corners of the intersection.*

This busy light rail intersection has limited space for pedestrians and high levels of background noise which can urge buskers to perform at very high volumes. Busking here impacts pedestrians' capacity to see, hear and navigate around trams. Busking is better suited to nearby Dixon Street Mall, Thomas Street and the intersection of Barlow and George Streets.



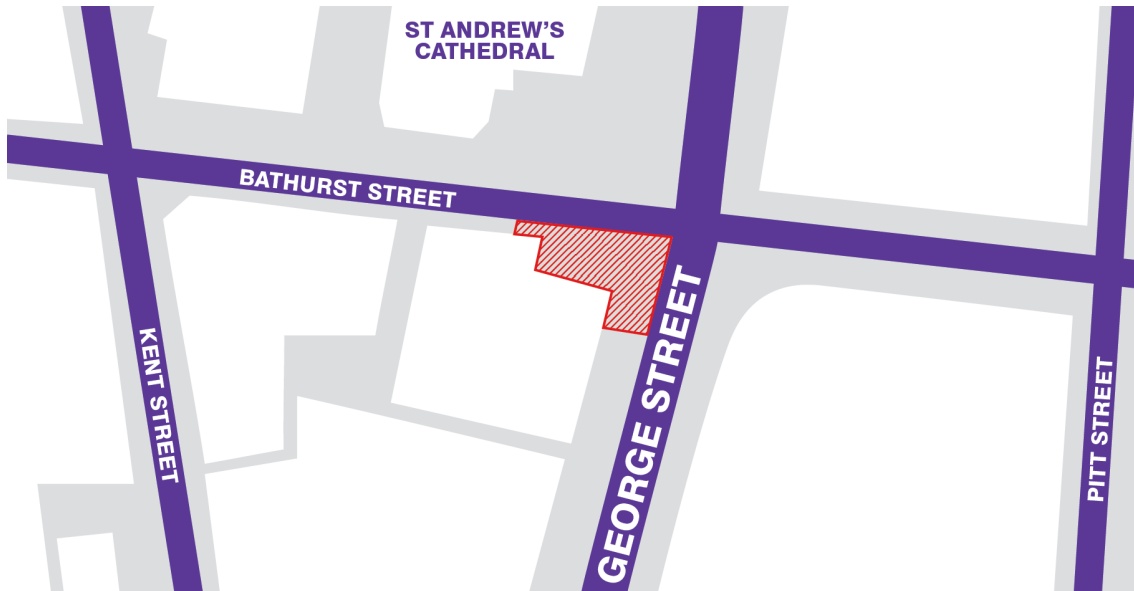
*Either side of **George Street between Goulburn and Liverpool Streets**.*

Busking here impacts residential apartments above World Square. The City has received a large number of complaints about busking in this location over a sustained period of time. There is ample opportunity for busking on adjacent blocks.



*The southwestern corner of the intersection of **George Street and Bathurst Street**, (outside KFC).*

Busking in this location impedes pedestrian flow and encourages people into the path of trams. Musical busking acts make it harder to hear tram warning sounds. A high volume of complaints about busking have been received from residents living above this intersection. Buskers are encouraged to use the popular busking areas outside St Andrews, Town Hall, Woolworths or QVB instead.



Safe busking around light rail

- *Position yourself at least 5 metres from the track.*
- *Position your back to the light rail, so that your audience forms away from the tracks and can see oncoming trams.*
- *Never busk in the path of a pedestrian crossing at an intersection. Place yourself to the side of the crossing so that people can easily walk past you.*
- *Never busk at a tram stop.*
- *Keep an eye on your audience. If they start to gather close to the tracks, stop performing and ask them to move closer to you.*
- *Keep your volume at a reasonably low level so that people are encouraged to gather closer to you and can hear tram warning bells over your performance.*

Code of Conduct

1. **We look out for each other.** Welcome newcomers and keep fellow buskers in check if they're over-stepping the expectations and obligations of buskers in Sydney.
2. **We have a right** and an opportunity to actively engage in monitoring and improving busking regulations and busking culture in Sydney.
3. **We work in cooperation with each other,** Local Government and the police to manage any issues that arise from a busker's performance or behaviour. We understand that the way we conduct ourselves may affect the reputation and livelihood of all buskers in Sydney.
4. **We are ambassadors,** for the cultural life of Sydney and its diverse, harmonious communities.
5. **We perform in public places,** to contribute something positive to those spaces. If our performance is having a negative effect on anybody, we do our best to remedy it.

For more information

For permit enquiries or to report busking issues, please contact City of Sydney Customer Service on **(02) 9265 9333** or **council@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au**

Buskers wanting more information about the rules for busking in the City of Sydney can email **busking@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au** city.sydney/busking

The City will work with the retail sector to understand their ecological footprint, establish baseline data, develop emission reduction strategies, report and monitor on these strategies, foster and promote innovation and encourage a best practice commitment to sustainable practices.

Item 4.**Grants and Sponsorship - Accommodation Grants Program - ReadyMade Works Incorporated****File No: S118918****Summary**

The Accommodation Grants Program supports community, cultural, economic and sustainability focused organisations by providing accommodation in City of Sydney (the City) owned buildings within the property portfolio at below market rents or at no charge.

Accommodation Grants Program tenant ReadyMade Works Incorporated (ReadyMade) advised the City of its financial stress with deficit forecasts due to reduced grant funding from the NSW Government. It has requested an increase in its subsidy from 89% to 100% for the remainder of its current lease, which ends on 30 June 2026.

ReadyMade is an independent, not-for-profit organisation that runs a multi-purpose studio venue dedicated to providing affordable rehearsal space for Sydney's performing artists, primarily for independent dance. ReadyMade is the sole provider of paid dance residencies in the Sydney Local Government Area.

Since 2014, ReadyMade has occupied Level 1, 247-257 Bulwara Road Ultimo as an Accommodation Grant Program tenant. ReadyMade is currently in Year 5 of a 5-year lease, expiring 30 June 2026.

To enable ReadyMade Works Incorporated to explore new revenue options and to maintain its services to the arts sector, this report seeks Council approval to increase rental subsidy to 100% for ReadyMade for the remainder of its current lease.

Recommendation

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council approve the new subsidy and grant level for ReadyMade Works Incorporated at Level 1, 247-257 Bulwara Road Ultimo for the remaining months of the current lease on the following rental subsidy:

	Market Rental Value	Grant Subsidy	Grant Amount	Rent Payable
Pro rata Year 5 01/01/2026 - 30/06/2026 (180 days)	\$44,404	100%	\$44,404	\$0

- (B) Council approve the backdating of this subsidy to commence from 1 January 2026;
- (C) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to enter into any documentation required to vary the lease to reflect the new rental subsidy; and
- (D) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to correct minor errors to the matters set out in this report, noting that the identity of the recipient will not change, and a CEO Update will be provided to Council advising of any changes made in accordance with this resolution.

Attachments

Nil.

Background

1. ReadyMade Works Incorporated (ReadyMade) is an independent, not-for-profit organisation that runs a multi-purpose studio venue dedicated to providing affordable rehearsal space for Sydney's performing artists, primarily for independent dance. ReadyMade is the sole provider of paid dance residencies in the Sydney Local Government Area.
2. Since 2014, ReadyMade has occupied level 1, 247-257 Bulwara Road Ultimo as an Accommodation Grant Program tenant. ReadyMade is currently in Year 5 of a five-year lease, expiring 30 June 2026.
3. In 2025, the City was contacted by some of our creative tenants and funding recipients about the impacts and outcomes of Create NSW multi-year funding, which supports the core operations and staffing costs for local arts organisations. ReadyMade's annual funding from Create NSW was halved, from \$135,000 to \$65,000, and approved for 2 years.
4. City staff met with representatives of ReadyMade on 11 November 2025 to understand the impacts of this funding shortfall on the organisation. ReadyMade has proposed to adjust operations over the next 2 years by reducing the number of ReadyMade led artistic programs and paid residency opportunities. However, it will maintain hire access for independent dance practitioners and has committed to no net loss of space utilisation. New revenue generation options being explored include partnerships, philanthropic funding, and a development application to extend operating hours to increase usage and bookings. ReadyMade will need to draw on its marginal financial reserves to fund a modest budget shortfall.
5. To reduce expenses, ReadyMade has requested an increase to its Accommodation Grants Program rental subsidy from 89% to 100% for the remainder of its lease term (expiring 30 June 2026). During the next 6-month period we will be requiring all of our relevant Accommodation Grant Program tenants to submit an application for a new lease and subsidy agreement for their current space to be considered by Council. This includes ReadyMade.
6. On 5 December 2025, the Grants team facilitated an assessment meeting to review the ReadyMade subsidy change request. City staff assessors unanimously highly recommended the proposed subsidy change, to support this small organisation to continue to provide its critical service managing essential cultural infrastructure for Sydney artists.
7. ReadyMade approached the City on 11 November 2025 requesting an increase in subsidy. The City's review of that request meant that the request was not ready for Council consideration and approval until February 2026. On this basis, although the grants policy does not usually allow for retrospective funding, this report seeks Council's approval to backdate the subsidy from 1 January 2026.

8. The below table shows the proposed subsidy recommendation and notes the total impact on City revenue is \$4,844 across 2025/26:

	CURRENT SUBSIDY pro rata Year 5 01/01/2026 – 30/06/2026 (180 days)	PROPOSED SUBSIDY pro rata Year 5 01/01/2026 – 30/06/2026 (180 days)
Market Value Rent	\$44,403.63	\$44,403.63
Subsidy (%)	89%	100%
Subsidy amount	\$39,519.23	\$44,403.63
Rent payable	\$4,884	\$0

Key Implications

Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision

9. Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision renews the communities' vision for the sustainable development of the city to 2050. It includes 10 strategic directions to guide the future of the city, as well as 10 targets against which to measure progress. This grant is aligned with the following strategic directions and objectives:
- (a) Direction 7 - Resilient and diverse communities - the provision of accommodation to cultural organisations contributes to the diverse range of services and support the City provides for our community. The diversity of these groups contributes to the vibrancy of the City's villages and the communities within them.
 - (b) Direction 8 - A thriving cultural life - approximately one third of the Accommodation Grant lease holders are cultural or arts organisations. These organisations support cultural development through the support of artists, and the delivery of culturally stimulating activities that engage our communities.
10. The Cultural Strategy 2025-2035 identifies the affordability crisis facing artists and arts organisations in Sydney, which has been further exacerbated by recent changes in both state and federal arts funding programs.

Risks

11. This request is within the City's risk appetite, which states:
 - (a) We are committed to conducting our activities in full compliance with applicable laws, regulations and relevant industry standards.
 - (b) We foster a culture of ethics, integrity and responsible behaviour across our organisation. By creating a strong ethical foundation, we aim to minimise the likelihood of reputation-damaging incidents and enhance our ability to respond effectively when challenges arise.
 - (c) We have a cautious to open appetite for our strategic, community development, urban planning and creative functions and services.

Social / Cultural / Community

12. The City's Grants and Sponsorship Program provides the City with a platform to support cultural and social initiatives from the communities and businesses within the local area.
13. The cultural organisations that are part of the Accommodation Grants Program make an invaluable contribution to our communities through the development and management of creative space, services, activities and programs.

Financial Implications

14. The total change in value of the recommended subsidy for the duration of the recommended period for ReadyMade is an additional \$4,884 in revenue foregone, compared to market value rent.

Relevant Legislation

15. Section 356 of the Local Government Act 1993 provides that a council may, in accordance with a resolution of the council, contribute money or otherwise grant financial assistance to persons for the purpose of exercising its functions. Section 356(3)(a) to (d) is satisfied for the purpose of providing grant funding to for profit organisations because:
- (a) the funding is part of the Accommodation Grants Program;
 - (b) the details of this program were included in Council's adopted operational plan for financial year 2025/26;
 - (c) the program's proposed budget does not exceed five per cent of Council's proposed income from ordinary rates; and
 - (d) this program applies to a significant group of persons within the local government area.

Critical Dates / Time Frames

16. The recommended increased subsidy in this report will be backdated to 1 January 2026, if approved by Council.

EMMA RIGNEY

Executive Director City Life

Annette Webb, Cultural Projects Coordinator Creative Spaces