

Attachment C

Engagement Report

Updated busking and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural practice policy

2025



Engagement report

From 24 June to 5 August 2025, we asked the community for feedback on our updated busking and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural practice policy.

The updated policy includes the following changes:

- *Local Government Act* references have been simplified to make it easier for buskers to understand and follow the regulations related to public performances.
- More detail and clarity around compliance procedures.

The busking code has been updated with:

- Clarification on queueing arrangements. We've provided clear direction on queueing etiquette to ensure the safe use of public spaces and avoid unattended infrastructure and equipment being left in these spaces.
- amended performance sites in Pitt Street Mall
- designation of special busking sites along George Street.

Purpose of the engagement

The purpose of the engagement was to:

- notify stakeholders of the updated guidelines.
- gather feedback from stakeholders and the community.

Submissions received during consultation.

We received a total of 13 submissions via an online survey and emailed submissions. The Sydney Your Say page was visited 283 times during the consultation period.

4 submissions were received from buskers

8 submissions were received from residents

1 submission was received from a company, Transdev, the agency responsible for the delivery of light rail

Key findings

Comments	City of Sydney Response
Non-compliant buskers are impacting other buskers on Pitt Street Mall	This feedback is noted and City Rangers will continue to monitor for compliance.
There are people holding signs in Pitt Street Mall for private business, taking up space for people busking	Spruiking activity is not a type of busking. If Spruikers are placing items in the mall that are obstructing or impeding movement City Rangers will respond.
Regular protests are impacting buskers	Protests or Public assemblies, whether approved or not, are the responsibility of NSW Police. This feedback is noted.
Suggests one spot on Pitt Street Mall near the Mid City Centre for 'circle shows' and one for musical buskers.	The middle pitch in Pitt Street Mall will be available to both musical acts and "circle acts". All acts will share this space, with a maximum 1 hour performance time per day. City staff will continue to monitor the Special Busking Site arrangements for Pitt Street Mall and accept feedback from buskers on an ongoing basis.
Suggests the implementation of an online booking system for Special Busking Sites	The feedback is noted.
Suggests that all acts should be able to perform on the Pitt Street Mall areas.	The proposed changes to Special Busking Sites in Pitt Street Mall are intended to better balance busking activity and impacts on neighbouring businesses. City staff monitor the use of Special Busking Sites and accept feedback from buskers on an ongoing basis.
Supports the cultural value of busking however has issues with noise impacting private properties.	The proposed changes to the Policy are intended to clarify and strengthen enforcement measures related to high volume performances and acts over-staying the maximum performance time and hours.
Request for specific guidance about safety around the light rail track.	Actioned. Information in the Busking Code updated, directing buskers to ensure their audiences gather a safe 2m distance from the light rail tracks.
Request for the Special Busking Site outside Town Hall to be for Low Impact acts only.	Actioned. Given there is limited space for larger group acts and circus performers to safely manage their audience in this location, it has been updated to Low Impact only. High Impact acts may perform diagonally across the road on the QVB forecourt, and other, more open areas along George St.

Some submissions include suggested changes to wording to the policy to address issues with compliance and excess noise. The issues are addressed in the policy and are managed through enforcement of the policy by the City's Rangers.

Engagement activities

Overview of engagement

1. Sydney Your Say webpage

A Sydney Your Say webpage, <https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/policy-planning-changes/your-say-updated-busking-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-cultural-practice-policy> was created. The page included information about the consultation.

2. Online feedback form via Survey Monkey

The community and stakeholders were able to give feedback using an online feedback form. A link to the feedback form was provided on the Sydney Your Say website.

3. Sydney Your Say notifications

An EDM was sent to subscribers of the Sydney Your Say Newsletter on 11 April to 5,003 recipients.

4. Key stakeholder notification

An email was sent to all current buskers who have provided a valid email address on 26 June 2025.



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1. Do you have any comments on the City's updated busking and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural practice policy?

2. You can also upload a submission.

Choose File

No file chosen

3. If your submission is on behalf of an organisation, please provide the organisation's name here.