

Central Coast Council

Busking Policy

Date Adopted: 27/05/2025
Revision: 3



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1. Policy Objectives

- 1.1. The objectives of this Policy are to:
 - 1.1.1. encourage activities that contribute to the vibrancy of the Central Coast and provide opportunities for alternative voices to be heard through public performance;
 - 1.1.2. promote public safety and amenity, the protection of property and to help ensure the safety of Buskers and the public; and
 - 1.1.3. support the rights of Buskers to express themselves in an artistic manner.
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2. Policy Scope

- 2.1. This policy identifies the conditions that apply to all buskers undertaking busking activities on community land within the Central Coast Council Local Government Area and seeks to encourage and support the rights of individuals to express themselves through public performance.
 - 2.2. This policy covers personnel employed by Central Coast Council (Council), any person or organisation contracted to or acting on behalf of Council, any person or organisation employed to work on Council premises or facilities and all activities of the Council.
 - 2.3. This policy does not confer any delegated authority upon any person. All delegations to staff are issued by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO).
 - 2.4. This policy applies to all community land within the Central Coast Local Government Area.
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3. Policy Statement

- 3.1. All Buskers (or people wishing to undertake busking) on community land within the Central Coast Local Government Area must apply for approval under section 68 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.
- 3.2. All applicants must apply for approval to busk in person and acknowledge and agree to comply with the terms and conditions of this policy and the *Busking Guidelines*, as updated from time to time.
- 3.3. Council can issue a "Busking Approval Card" to any member of the public who completes the busking approval application and agrees to the terms and conditions set out in the Busking Guidelines.
- 3.4. Details of Buskers holding Busking Approval Cards will be entered into a register of approvals granted by Council, in accordance with sections 133(2) and 113(5) of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

- 3.5.** Buskers with Busking Approval Cards are covered for public liability in accordance with Council's *Community Public and Products Liability* scheme while the busker complies with the terms and conditions of the Busking Guidelines attached to this policy.
- 3.6.** Council's *Community Public and Products Liability* scheme is limited to \$20 million for any one occurrence, and the busker is responsible for the first \$1,000 of each property loss claim. The liability scheme does not cover loss or damage to the busker's personal items.
- 3.7.** Groups are limited to a maximum of five members (each member of the group must hold a valid busking approval card). This is to ensure that pedestrians can move freely through the busking location and to prevent crowd crush.
- 3.8.** Buskers are not to use dangerous implements that may pose a risk or potential hazard to any person or member of the public.
- 3.9.** Animals are not to be used in any act whether in an active or passive form.
- 3.10.** The following acts are not considered as buskers and will not be issued an approval:
- 3.10.1. balloon sculptors
 - 3.10.2. tarot card/palm/fortune readers
 - 3.10.3. aerosol artists
 - 3.10.4. face painting artists
 - 3.10.5. masseurs
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4. Responsibilities

Compliance, monitoring and review

- 4.1.** Suspected breaches or misuse of this policy are to be reported to the Chief Executive Officer. Alleged breaches of this policy shall be dealt with by the processes outlined for breaches of the Code of Conduct, as detailed in the Code of Conduct and in the Procedures for the Administration of the Code of Conduct.
- 4.2.** For further information on breaches of and compliance with busking approvals, please see the Busking Guidelines.

Reporting

- 4.3.** Staff must maintain all records relevant to administering this policy in a recognised Council recordkeeping system.

Records management

- 4.4.** Staff must maintain all records relevant to administering this protocol in accordance with Council's [Information and Records Management Policy](#).
- 4.5.** This policy will be reviewed at least once every term of Council.

5. Policy Definitions

Authorised person	means an appropriately delegated employee of Central Coast Council or a police officer
Busker	means a person who entertains in a public place by playing a musical instrument, dancing, singing, clowning, juggling, or performing acts of a similar nature with the intention of receiving donations from members of the public.
Busking Approval Card:	means an Approval Card issued under this policy
Busking policy	means this document and any annexure to this document
Community land	means all public land is either community land or operational land under the Local Government Act 1993. Busking is permitted on community land with Council approval (section 68)
Council	means Central Coast Council, being the organisation responsible for the administration of Council affairs and operations and the implementation of Council policy and strategies
Dangerous implement	<p>means any object that because of the way it is used, or its design or construction poses a risk, hazard, or a potential risk or hazard, to the safety or welfare of a member of the public or any person handling the object</p> <p>This includes chain saws, spikes, fire, saws, swords, spears, knives, bicycles, and sharp implements.</p>
Performance	means an entertainment event that substantially involves the demonstration of an artistic skill including playing a musical instrument, theatre, dancing, singing, clowning, juggling or other similar performance skills
Soliciting of funds	means the act of asking, begging, seeking, or requesting money or goods from members of the public

6. Policy Administration

Business Group	Community and Recreation Services
Responsible Officer	Unit Manager Community and Culture
Associated Procedure (if any, reference document(s) number(s))	N/A
Policy Review Date	Four years from date of adoption unless legislated otherwise.
File Number / Document Number	D16144008
Relevant Legislation (reference specific sections)	<p>This Policy supports Council's compliance with the following legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> (NSW) ▪ <i>Local Government (General) Regulations 2021</i> (NSW)
Link to Community Strategic Plan	<p>Theme 4: Responsible</p> <p>Goal D: A place of opportunity for people</p> <p>B-A1: Work within our communities to connect people, build capacity and create local solutions and initiatives.</p>
Related Policies / Protocols / Procedures / Documents (reference document numbers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Busking Guidelines ▪ Code of Conduct ▪ Equity, Diversity and Respect Policy ▪ Information and Records Management Policy ▪ Delegations Register

7. Policy Authorisations

No.	Authorised Function	Authorised Business Unit / Role(s)
Nil	Nil	Nil

8. Policy History

Revision	Date Approved / Authority	Description Of Changes
1	26 March 2018 Min. No 205/18	New policy adopted. Original approval authority details: This policy identifies the conditions that apply to all Buskers undertaking busking on community land within the Central Coast Local Government Area and seeks to encourage and support the rights of individuals to express themselves through public performance.
2	26 June 2020	Minor administrative updates. Allocated a policy number. Updated format, paragraph numbering and headings to the 2020 accessible CCC template. Minor clarifications to Definitions section. Inserted standard heading 'Compliance, monitoring and review' (to refer to breaches, Busking Guidelines and standard paragraphs on policy review and recordkeeping).
3	27 May 2025 Adopted - Ordinary Council Meeting Min. No. 684/25	Adopted - updated to new policy template. Minor administrative updates and alignment with Busking Guidelines.