

Information Sheet - Use of Public Footpaths for Commercial Purposes

SHARING THE FOOTPATH – FOOTPATH ACTIVITIES POLICY

WHY HAVE A POLICY FOR FOOTPATH ACTIVITIES?

Footpath activities make streets interesting and encourage people to socialise. They are an excellent way for local businesses to market themselves and add to the friendly atmosphere of our town centres.

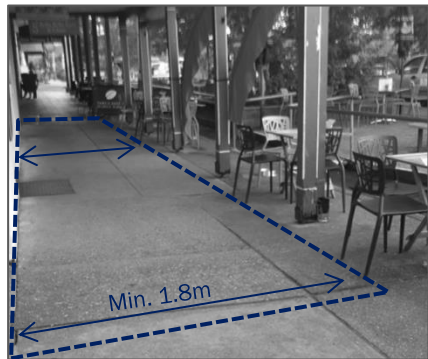
Footpath activities covered by the policy include:

- the display of goods
- A-frame signage (restricted to one sign per business),
- outdoor dining and associated furniture, and
- temporary community street stalls.

Footpaths are community spaces and space needs to be kept clear for people to move along the footpath, especially for people with a disability that use mobility and vision aids. Providing clear and predictable access along the footpath and into buildings benefits everyone including older people, parents/carers with children and parents with prams. Council's Footpath Activities Policy aims to encourage footpath activities whilst keeping a generous walking path clear for people of all abilities to use.



X FOOTPATH BLOCKED



✓ FOOTPATH KEPT CLEAR

WHAT APPROVAL IS REQUIRED?

All footpath activities require approval (or multiple approvals) under the *Roads Act 1993* and the *Local Government Act 1993*. Council is implementing a fairer and simpler way to obtain the necessary approvals for footpath activities by wrapping these approvals up into one process. Businesses wishing to undertake footpath activities will need to apply for a *Footpath Activity Approval*.

Council will aim to process Footpath Activity Applications within 14 (business) days of lodgement provided sufficient information is submitted as part of the application. Where outdoor dining is proposed on a classified state road (Cudgery Street, Dorrigo & Hyde Street, Bellingen) the consent of the Roads and Maritime Service is required, which will lengthen the approval timeframe to at least 27 days. A Footpath Activity Approval will be valid for two (2) years, before requiring renewal.

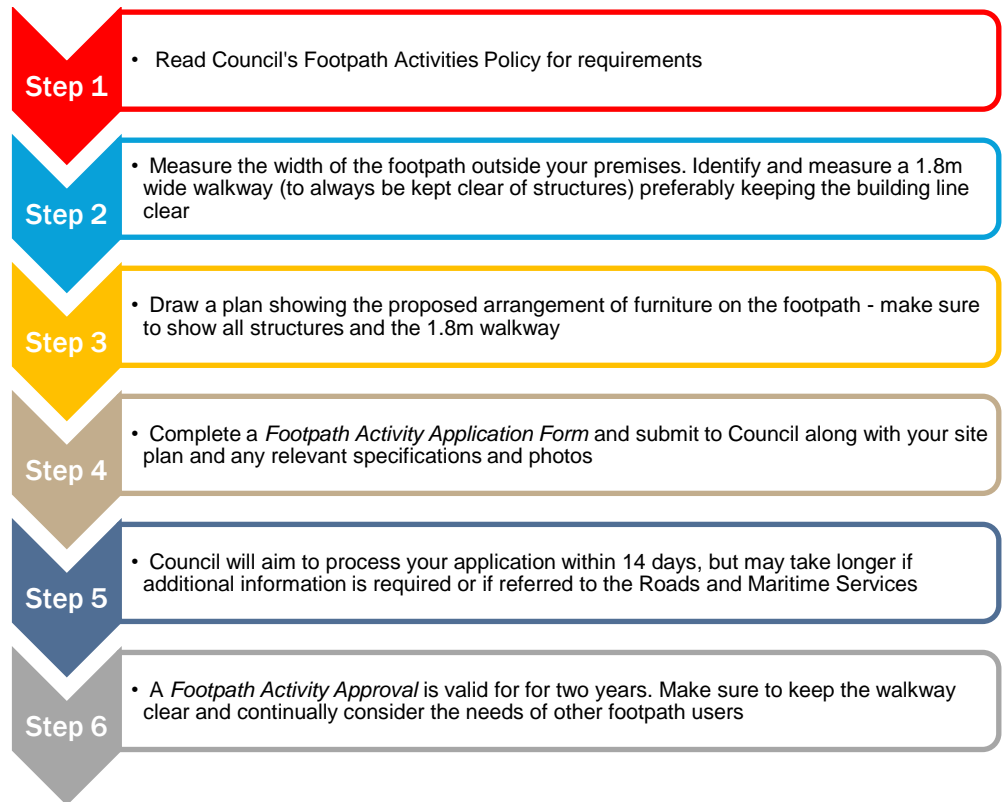
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WHAT DO I NEED TO DO TO GET APPROVAL?

The Footpath Activities Policy sets out requirements for footpath activities, mostly relating to providing sufficient space on the footpath for walking and making sure the footpath is kept safe and tidy.

The following flow-chart shows the steps in obtaining a Footpath Activity Approval.

FOOTPATH ACTIVITY APPROVAL PROCESS



MORE INFORMATION

For more information visit Bellingen Shire Council's website:

<https://www.bellingen.nsw.gov.au/business> or contact Customer and Business Services during business hours on (02) 6655 7300.