

COVID-19: Mobile food and drink outlets – temporary changes

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted all of our lives in one way or another and changes have been made by the NSW government to allow businesses to continue operating.

Recent changes to NSW planning legislation now allows greater access to food and beverages on a take away basis with restrictions eased for mobile food and drink outlets.

Mobile food & drink outlets

On 2 April 2020, temporary orders were made under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment (COVID-19 Development – Takeaway Food and Beverages) Order 2020*.

These temporary changes will allow the community to more easily access take away food and drink by permitting food vans and food trucks to operate with fewer restrictions.

A mobile food and drink outlet is defined in the Order as a food truck, van, cart or other similar vehicle.



Guidelines

The Order allows mobile food and drink outlets to carry out business without Council approval subject to the following conditions.

The mobile food and drink outlet must:

1. Have the consent of the owner of the land where trading is carried out. If that is Council or a public authority, a written consent must be obtained before you start, and
2. Not restrict any vehicular or pedestrian access to or from the land or entry to any building on the land, and
3. Not obstruct the operation of, or access to, any utility services on the land or on adjacent land, and
4. Not be located within the canopy of, or result in damage to, any tree growing on the land or on adjacent land, and
5. Not result in any damage to public property on the land or on adjacent land, and
6. Make sufficient space available for customers to allow a social distancing of at least 1.5 metres from other customers, and



7. Not involve any seating for customers during the preparation of food or beverages, or for the consumption of food or beverages, and
8. If located on private land – be limited to 1 mobile food and drink outlet on the land and not contravene any conditions of development consent for other use carried out on the land.

How long will these changes last?

The Order is in place until 30 September 2020 or when it is repealed.

Food Legislation

During these unusual times, it is important to remember that all the usual operational requirements for a food premises still apply.

This includes all minimum food handling and personal hygiene requirements, including (but not limited to):

- Sanitising of all food contact surfaces,
- Hand washing facilities, and
- Temperature control of potentially hazardous foods



In addition, all food businesses need to notify their local council before they commence operation. To notify Council about your food business, visit Council's website at:

www.georgesriver.nsw.gov.au/Council/Online-Forms/Food-Premises-Registration

Food Inspections

Council's Environmental Health officers may carry out compliance inspections of any mobile food and drink outlets operating in the local area.

For More Information

For information regarding COVID-19 go to:
www.health.nsw.gov.au

For information regarding food safety and COVID-19 go to:
www.foodstandards.gov.au

For information regarding food businesses, go to:
<https://www.foodauthority.nsw.gov.au/help/covid-19-advice-for-businesses>

For further information regarding local food businesses, please contact Council's Environmental Health team or Customer Service team on:

Phone: 9330 6400

E-mail: mail@georgesriver.nsw.gov.au