

MOBILE FOOD VENDING OPERATING GUIDELINES

June 2026

Administration

PARENT DOCUMENT: [Temporary Use of Public Space Policy](#)

PURPOSE

The City of Adelaide encourages and invites activities that are creative, safe, and complementary to the location in which they take place. This guideline implements Council's [Temporary Use of Public Space Policy](#) and the principles which guide the approach to how public space can be used and activated for business purposes. The purpose of these operating guidelines is to set out the key criteria that need to be met when applying for and operating under a Mobile Food Vending Permit.

OPERATION

APPLYING FOR A MOBILE FOOD VENDING PERMIT

All applications must include the following:

- A completed Mobile Food Vending Permit application form, which is available on the City of Adelaide [website](#).
- A detailed site plan showing the mobile food vehicle and proposed layout, including dimensions, service window, counter, power source etc.
- The size and weight dimensions of the vehicle.
- A current copy of the Certificate of Currency for Public and Product Liability Insurance to the value of \$20 million, which notes City of Adelaide as an interested party.
- Proof of notification of a food business with the local council where your vehicle is housed, or where most of the food preparation and food handling is occurring.
- Proof of trade waste approval with either the local council where your vehicle is housed or where most of the food preparation and food handling is occurring, or with SA Water.

AMENITY AND APPEARANCE

A mobile food vending area shall relate to its surroundings, to protect and enhance the urban, heritage and streetscape appearance and character.

- A mobile food vending vehicle may be a van, truck, cart or bike. Stalls and marquees are not considered.
- The mobile food vending set up should be sturdy and windproof, made of quality materials and be well designed and constructed to be safe to use, without sharp edges or other features likely to cause injury.

The City of Adelaide acknowledges the Kaurna people as the Traditional Owners of the Country where the city of Adelaide is situated, and pays its respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

- Permanent fixtures and elements are not permitted.
- Trees and other significant streetscape elements such as public art, benches, rubbish bins and bus shelters shall not be obstructed, covered, removed, damaged, relocated or modified because of a mobile food vending area operation.
- All advertising must be fixed to the food vehicle and not encroach on the public realm.

The operator of a mobile food business is required to maintain the mobile food vending vehicle and the cleanliness of the public space from which they are trading from by ensuring:

- The mobile food vending vehicle is clean and in good repair at all times.
- All rubbish and liquid waste are contained and removed from the public space at the end of trading and disposed of in accordance with regulations.

LOCATION CONDITIONS & OPERATING HOURS FOR COMMERCIAL MOBILE FOOD VENDORS

Mobile food vending is permitted in streets, footpaths and City Squares where there is adequate footpath space to accommodate it, while not compromising pedestrian access, safety or other street activities.

Location conditions include:

- A minimum distance of 25 metres must be maintained from another fixed food business and/or mobile food vendor (unless written permission is obtained from the fixed food business).
- Exclusive use of an area is not permitted, and areas cannot be reserved.
- In the interests of building relationships, collaborating and attracting consumers to the City, mobile food vendors are encouraged to engage with adjacent businesses to notify of a proposed location and seek acceptance of a mobile vending operation.
- Mobile food vendors must alternate locations regularly; vendors may only attend prime locations once per week during standard lunch trade (11am-3pm), unless otherwise advised and agreed upon by Council.
 - Prime locations include Victoria Square, Hindmarsh Square and North Terrace (from King William Street-East Terrace).
 - Additionally, vendors may not trade in the same location for longer than 4 hours at any one time (not including set up and pack down).
 - Mobile food vendors will be permitted to trade at prime locations more than once a week if trading on a weekend or weekday outside of standard lunch trade hours (11am-3pm).
- Vendors will only be permitted to setup 1.5 hours before lunch time trade (11am-3pm) in the City Squares to reduce the possibility of vendors reserving spaces.
- Trading in Park Lands and City Squares is permitted but must be:
 - On hard-surface areas only (vehicles must not drive onto or trade from grass areas).

- Setback from licensed sporting areas and their parking facilities (unless permission has been given by the licence holder). Contact details for licence holders can be found [here](#).
- No conflict with scheduled events. Vendors may be required to relocate if scheduled events conflict with the trading location

CITY SQUARES, INCLUDING VICTORIA SQUARE / TARNTANYANGGA

- Up to six vans can trade in City Squares (Hindmarsh Square/Mukata, Victoria Square/Tarntanyangga, Light Square/Wauwi, Whitmore Square/Iparrityi) at any one time.
- Vendors will only be permitted to setup 1.5 hours before lunch time trade (11am-3pm) in the City Squares to reduce the possibility of vendors reserving spaces.
- Parking on hard surfaces is required when trading in City Squares.
- Food vendors are encouraged to trade on the Northern Plaza of Victoria Square/Tarntanyangga (Flinders Street end) and the Eastern Promenade.
- When necessary, CoA has the right to alter location guidelines or invite/deny specific food vendors to trade in Victoria Square/Tarntanyangga.

LOCATION CONDITIONS & OPERATING HOURS FOR CHARTIBLE FOOD SERVICE PROVIDERS

To assist in achieving a coordinated approach the following criteria apply to food service providers delivering free food services to vulnerable members of the community:

- One food service provider offering free food to vulnerable members of the community will be permitted to operate in one location at any time.
- Exclusive use of an area is not permitted, and areas cannot be reserved.
- Food service providers will only be permitted for the days, times and location set out in the permit.
- Trading from the roadside or footpath is preferred to minimise impacts on Park Lands.
- Trading in the Park Lands and City Squares is permitted but must be:
 - On hard-surface areas only (vehicles must not drive onto or trade from grass areas).
 - Setback from licensed sporting areas and their parking facilities (unless permission has been given by the licence holder). Contact details for licence holders can be found [here](#).
 - Scheduled to not conflict with events. Vendors may be required to relocate if scheduled events conflict with the trading location.
- Food service providers should be linked to an organisation/s offering broader support services for vulnerable members of the community.
- Council will provide permit holders with a poster offering information on how to connect with services that must be displayed during the food service.
- Food service providers are to be mindful of the impact the service has on nearby residents and businesses during and post service.

LOCATIONS NOT AVAILABLE FOR MOBILE FOOD VENDING

The following locations are not available for mobile food vending:

- Streets, roads and laneways with a footpath width of less than 3.2 metres.
- King William Street (between North Terrace and the northern tip of Victoria Square/Tarntanyangga).
- National War Memorial on North Terrace (between King William Street and Kintore Avenue).
- The Indigenous Cultural Marker on Recreation Plaza/Victoria Square/Tarntanyangga South (trading near the marker is available, however you may not park/trade on top of the marker)
- Rundle Mall
 - The Adelaide Economic Development Agency may permit mobile food vending in Rundle Mall via specific application. Further information is available online [here](#).
- Rundle Street
- Hindley Street
- Grote Street
- East Terrace (between North Terrace and Grenfell Street)

Other locations may be excluded from trading as determined by Council.

In addition to the locations listed, the *Major Events Act 2013* facilitates the conduct of major events in South Australia. It is the responsibility of each mobile food vendor to be aware of all declared major event areas and ensure they do not sell or distribute in the area during an event.

PARKING CONDITIONS SPECIFIC TO TRUCKS AND CARAVANS

- The food truck or caravan must be parked in one legitimate parking space that is for 1 hour or more, parallel to the footpath. Permission will not be granted for any 15 or 30-minute parking space, nor loading zones, disabled parks, taxi ranks, bus stops, permit or residential permit parking or no stopping zones.
- Parking fees are waived during operation for food trucks or caravans. A copy of the permit must be available at all times.
- The food truck or van must avoid encroachment on bike lanes at all times.
- Serving area to be from footpath-side of the vehicle only.
- Vehicle must not require external power or water connection and be self-sufficient.
- Parking for one towing vehicle may be permitted for a fee upon application.
- The towing vehicle must be parked in a legitimate parking space that is for 1 hour or more.
- The permit for towing vehicles must be clearly displayed and is valid only whilst the vendor is operating (including set up and pack down) and must not be directly next to the parking space where their trading van is set up.
 - If the towing vehicle permit is used outside of the vendors operating times parking fines may be issued and cannot be waived by administration.

- Vans and trucks must be of dimensions which enable them to easily park in a standard parking space of 2.3 metres wide and 6.0 metres long (as per the Local Government (Parking) Regulations 1991).
- If the van or truck is longer than a standard car park, these are only permitted in non-delineated car parks
- If the van or truck is wider than a standard car park, vendors will not be permitted to trade from any car parks and may only utilise the Squares and Park Lands at the discretion of Council and the Council's Horticulture Team.

CONDITIONS SPECIFIC TO CARTS/BIKES ON THE FOOTPATH AND SMALLER VANS

- Smaller mobile food vending vehicles may trade on the footpath of North Terrace (between Kintore Avenue and Frome Road).
- Smaller mobile food vending vehicles shall not exceed 2 tonnes in weight to ensure minimal impact on pavers and any underground infrastructure.
- Food vendors on the footpath must be setback 1.8 metres from building fronts, allowing clear pathways and not interfering with pedestrian movement.
- Food vendors on the footpath must be setback 0.6 metres from the kerb line, and not interfering with opening of vehicle doors.
- Food vendors on the footpath cannot set up adjacent to bus zones, taxi zones and loading zones, designated disabled parking spaces or a roadway or footpath construction zone.
- Food vendors on the footpath must not require external power or water connection and be self-sufficient, unless otherwise agreed upon by Council.
- Larger mobile food vending vehicles must meet the dimension/weight requirements to occupy any footpath.
- Parking for one towing vehicle may be permitted for a fee upon application.
- The towing vehicle must be parked in a legitimate parking space that is for 1 hour or more.
- The permit for towing vehicles must be clearly displayed and is valid only whilst the vendor is operating (including set up and pack down) and must not be directly next to the parking space where their trading van is set up.
 - If the towing vehicle permit is used outside of the vendor's operating times parking fines may be issued and cannot be waived by administration.

SAFETY

- The following safety measures are required to be met
- All permit holders are required to comply with all health and food safety aspects of the entire operation as contained in the Food Act 2001 and Food Safety Standards.
- BBQs, grills and heat sources must be protected to prevent public access and accidental burning.
- Gas bottles, gas lines and firefighting equipment must comply with safety requirements recommended by the South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service.

- All electrical installations must comply and be fully tested to meet the current Australian Standard (AS/NZS 3000:2007/Amdt 1:2009).
- Generators must be compliant, make minimal noise so as not to create a local nuisance and be safely secured from the public's access at all times.
- Firefighting equipment must be provided by operators where cooking and heating appliances are used. A permit holder operating a mobile food vending business in the City of Adelaide will be required to meet a range of permit conditions

CONSIDERATION OF PRIOR ACTIVITY

- When assessing a permit application, Council will take into consideration any history relating to payments or legal compliance from the applicant.
- Any outstanding debts, historical payment defaults or compliance concerns in other activities may result in a permit application being refused.

OTHER USEFUL DOCUMENTS

Related documents

- [Temporary Use of Public Space Policy](#)

Relevant legislation

- *Local Government Act, 1999 (SA)*
- *Local Government (General) Regulations 2013*
- *Local Government (Parking) Regulations 1991*
- *Food Act 2001*
- Food Safety Standards
- *Food Regulations 2017*
- *The Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016*
- *The Local Nuisance and Litter Control Regulations 2017*

GLOSSARY

Throughout this document, the below terms have been used and are defined as:

Business Purposes: Persons, partnership, organisations or corporations engaged in activity that benefits them.

Charitable Food Service Providers: Persons or organisations that provide food free of charge to members of the public, usually to vulnerable segments of the community.

Mobile Food Vending: Utilisation of the public space to prepare and dispense food and drink products.

ADMINISTRATIVE

As part of Council's commitment to deliver the City of Adelaide Strategic Plan, services to the community and the provision of transparent information, all policy documents are reviewed as per legislative requirements or when there is no such provision a risk assessment approach is taken to guide the review timeframe.

This Policy document will be reviewed every 4 years unless legislative or operational change occurs beforehand. The next review is required in **2030**.

Review history:

Trim Reference	Authorising Body	Date/ Decision ID	Description of Edits
ACC2026/68189	CEO	June 2026	Eligibility criteria added to support the operation of charity food service providers
ACC2024/61820	CEO	September 2024	Minor adjustment to reflect removal of specific Mobile Food Vending legislation from s222 of the Local Government Act, updating hyperlinks and minor typographical errors
ACC2021/92786	CEO	4 August 2021	Minor adjustments made to reflect current processes as a result of the permit review
ACC/2020/213732	CEO	5 March 2018	Changes required due to the implementation of new legislation under s 222 of the Local Government Act 1999
ACC2020/145358	Council	May 2013	Endorsement of the Mobile Food Operating Guidelines required for the new Mobile Food Program

Contact:

For further information contact the Regulatory Service Program

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