



## Council Policy EVENTS POLICY

<b>Corporate Plan Reference:</b>	Theme 4: Long term planning for Noosa Shire
<b>Endorsed by Council:</b>	18 July 2019
<b>Policy Author:</b>	Property Manager

### POLICY PURPOSE

Events play an important role in bringing people together to celebrate and promote cultural, community and environmental values. Noosa Council seeks to ensure that events held on community land add to the culture and vitality of the area, while maintaining the shire's liveability and environment.

### APPLICATION

This policy applies to events proposed or held on Council controlled land that require a permit under Council's Local Laws. The policy does not apply to civic functions or ceremonies conducted by Council, wedding or civil ceremonies, events on private land or events that do not require a permit.

### DESIRED OUTCOMES

Events in Noosa Shire:

- Set benchmarks for quality and environmental outcomes;
- Help meet relevant goals and initiatives in Council's adopted strategies and plans, including its Social Strategy, Cultural Plan, Sport and Active Recreation Plan and Local Economic Plan; and
- Achieve broad community acceptance, with residents' complaints minimised.

### COUNCIL POLICY

Council's regulation and assessment of events proposed on community land requiring a permit will be subject to the following principles:

#### a) Community access to public land is prioritised

The day-to-day recreational use of community land by residents and visitors will generally take precedence over events.

#### b) Impacts on community assets are managed

Events must not adversely impact on the environment, public infrastructure or other community assets.

Events in locations susceptible to bad weather must provide detailed contingency plans and meet the cost of any repair and reinstatement of community assets.

#### c) Impacts on residents and local businesses are managed

Council will set limits on the number and nature of events in key precincts in the shire in order to control impacts on residents and local businesses.

Applications that would have the effect of increasing the acceptable number of events in a precinct with an adopted limit will require formal Council approval.

New or additional road closures will be avoided, particularly in high use areas or where alternate routes are not available.

**d) High use precincts are protected from overuse**

Events proposed in high use precincts, such as Noosa Heads, must demonstrate valid locational needs.

Tourism Events in the Hastings Street precinct are not to exceed 7 total events.

Given the limited available community event space in Noosa's high use precincts, Council encourages the identification of alternative locations for staging events.

**e) Noosa Shire's range of events is diverse and inclusive**

Council will ensure the range of events held in Noosa is diverse, socially inclusive, supports broad community participation and that each event provides clear community benefits.

**f) Events employ sustainable practices**

All events must employ sustainable environmental practices.

Council will prescribe minimum requirements for waste management and other measures.

Annual and repeat events must demonstrate continuing improvement in sustainable environmental practices and progress toward best practice in event management, waste management and sustainable transport.

Council will ensure the use of single-use plastics is phased out for all tourism events by 2020 and for all other events by 2021. Their replacement by reusable, recyclable and compostable alternatives will help foster new circular economies and innovation.

Balloons are prohibited for all events.

Council will generally only approve fireworks for Christmas and New Year's Eve community events.

**g) Locally owned and operated businesses are preferred**

Event proposals from locally owned and operated organisations will generally be preferred in order to retain benefits within the shire.

**h) Not-for-profit community groups are preferred**

Events run by incorporated not-for-profit community groups will generally be preferred over for-profit organisations.

**i) Ratepayers do not subsidise tourism events and events by for-profit organisations**

A user-pays approach will be applied to ensure there is no ratepayer subsidy of permit administration for tourism events and events by for-profit organisations.

**j) Tourism events, corporate events and events by for-profit organisations contribute to broader local environmental outcomes**

Council may seek to establish new initiatives whereby tourism, corporate and for-profit events contribute towards local environmental management initiatives.

**GUIDELINES**

Council will develop a framework of supporting guidelines, plans and procedures to support this policy. While those will provide key details for applicants, the following primary requirements form part of this policy:

- Applications that do not provide all mandatory information will not be accepted;
- Applications for events on a beach, Noosa Heads Lions Park, Chaplin Park, or other locations susceptible to bad weather must include detailed contingency plans for an alternate site(s) in the event of beach erosion, severe weather, inundation and the like; and
- Applications for new large events (exceeding 2,000 attendees) must be lodged a minimum of 6 months prior to the event.

## ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Council’s Property Manager is responsible for the assessment of event applications, consultation with stakeholders and the issue of event permits.

Council will formally consider applications that would have the effect of increasing the acceptable number of events in a precinct with adopted event limits.

## RELEVANT LEGISLATION & DOCUMENTS

*Local Government Act 2009*  
*Local Government Regulation 2012*  
*Land Act 1994*  
*Noosa Shire Council Local Laws (No.1 – No.7)*  
*Noosa Council Corporate Plan*  
*Noosa Main Beach Events Policy*  
*Noosa Shire Environment Strategy*  
*Noosa Sustainability Principles*  
*Noosa Social Strategy*  
*Noosa Cultural Plan 2019-2023*  
*Noosa Shire Local Economic Plan*  
*Commercial Use of Community Land Policy*  
*Community Grants Policy*  
*Community Engagement Policy*  
*Transport Policy*

## DEFINITIONS

**Council Controlled Land** – has the same meaning as *local government controlled area* as defined in Council’s Local Law 1 – Schedule 1 Dictionary but also includes *roads* as separately defined.

**Events** – means organised gatherings of people for festivals, parades, ceremonies, celebrations, sports competitions, concerts, performances, rallies, and the like.

**Community Event** – means an event within the Noosa Shire organised by a not-for-profit organisation primarily attended by people who reside within the Noosa Shire Council area.

**Corporate Event** - means an event staged by a business, corporation or not-for-profit organisation for invited guests, for example with the purpose of inspiring or rewarding their employees, or else to promote a brand, service or product. Specific examples include corporate dinners, promotional lunches and team building activities.

**Tourism Event** – means an event within Noosa Shire endorsed by Tourism Noosa that contributes to the Noosa economy and is primarily attended by people who reside outside the Noosa Shire.

**Hastings Street Precinct** – means the area including Hastings Street, Noosa Main Beach, Noosa Main Beach West, Noosa Woods and Noosa Lions Park and adjacent road reserves and council controlled land.

### Version control:

Version	Reason/ Trigger	Change (Y/N)	Endorsed/ Reviewed by	Date
1.0	New Policy	N	Noosa Council	18/07/2019