Trading in the road reserve permit fees

Why does Council charge fees and require permits for activities on the road reserve?

Permits enable the regulation of commercial streetscape activation, ensuring that trading activities do not impede on the public's ability to move safely through a space. They are one of the most streamlined administrative processes for Council to manage the use of public land.

Collecting fees removes the need for Council to fully subsidise businesses and enables Council to continue to provide high quality spaces to the whole community. One of the challenges associated with activation of the streetscape, whether that be through footpath trading or parklets, is the privatisation of public space. Internationally one of the concerns regarding parklets and occupation of the streetscape by dining businesses is that the businesses are benefiting at the expense of the community. Fees are one way to minimise and recoup public loss of space.

What's changing in the 2023/24 financial year?

In the past, Council has used business frontage width, a very one-dimensional assessment of a space, to determine permit fees. This means that two business, both with shop fronts five metres wide, would pay the same $655 fee even though one has access to a footpath trading area that is one metre deep and, and the other has access to a footpath trading area that is three metres deep.

In the 2023/24 financial year Council wants to move to basing fees on the total square meterage of outdoor trading area (width of the shop frontage x depth of the available trading zone) that a business has access to. This will mean that fees will more closely reflect the earning potential of the space.

Another change in 2023/24 is that Council will be opening applications, issuing permits, and charging fees for the installation and use of parklets. Parklets will be included in the total square meterage of available outdoor trading area, so traders with existing footpath trading permits and a parklet will be able to combine them under one permit and fee.

Draft 2023/24 fee schedule

Type	Annual fee
Display of goods (including children's rides)	$312
Advertising (includes A-frames, notice boards, menus, banners, and queue infrastructure)	$156
Temporary stalls	
Information stands and signs related to Local, State and Federal elections	No fee
Temporary activation/charity collectors	$156 per 3-day period
Outdoor dining	
Extra small 5 m^2, seating for 2-5 people	$312
Small 6-15 m^2, seating for 5-15 people	$624
Medium 16-25 m^2, seating for 16-25 people	$936
Large 26-35 m^2, seating for 26-35 people	$1,404

Type	Annual fee
Extra large 36 m^2+, seating for over 36 people	$1,872
Partial use of footpath, parklet or laneway where an area is interrupted by public infrastructure, or where Council agrees to an area either being used in a reduced capacity, or shared between multiple traders.	Determined upon assessment of application

Parklet installation Where there is no existing parklet, or when an existing parklet is no longer safe and requires replacing, Council will charge a single **one-off** build and install fee.	
Single space parklet	$2,000
Double space parklet	$2,500
Triple space parklet	$3,000

Will traders see a rise in fees?

Some traders will see a rise in fees, but many traders will see a reduction in fees. Traders with shallower footpath trading zones and less available square meterage of space available to them will generally pay less in 2023/24 than they did in 2022/23.

Traders who have very deep footpath trading zones and traders who have previously not had to pay for the use of a parklet will be more likely to see a rise in fees. Traders who **do** have a very deep footpath trading zone, do not have a parklet, and are facing a fee rise of more than 50 percent, will be offered a lower fee for 2023/24 as a transition.

The table on the next page shows expected fee changes depending on the capacity of a business's available outdoor trading space.

Current permit type	**Outdoor dining**														**Display of goods**	**Advertising signs and small structures or displays**
Current permit category	0-3.99 meters		4-4.99 meters		5-5.99 meters		6-6.99 meters		7 meters or more				Dual frontage			
Approx. seating	2-12		4-15		5-18		6-21		7-21+							
Current fee per financial year	$437.00		$546.00		$655.50		$764.50		$983.00				$983.00		$603.50	$213.50
Shallow area (min width x 1 metre deep)	1 m^2 (minimum width assumed to be 1 metre)		4 m^2		5 m^2		6 m^2		7 m^2+							
Deep area (max width x 3 metre deep	11.97 m^2		14.97 m^2		17.97 m^2		20.97 m^2		21 m^2+							
Proposed equivalent category name	Extra small	Small*	Extra small	Small*	Small*	Medium*	Small*	Medium*	Small*	Medium*	Large	Extra large	Large	Extra large		
Proposed equivalent category area	<5 m^2	6-15 m^2	<5 m^2	6-15 m^2	6-15 m^2	16-25 m^2	6-15 m^2	16-25 m^2	6-15 m^2	16-25 m^2	26-35 m^2	36 m^2+	26-35 m^2	36 m^2+		
Approx. seating	2-5	6-15	2-5	6-15	6-15	16-25	6-15	16-25	6-15	16-25	26-35	36+	26-35	36+		
Proposed fee per financial year	$312.00	$624.00	$312.00	$624.00	$624.00	$936.00	$624.00	$936.00	$624.00	$936.00	$1,404.00	$1,872.00	$1,404.00	$1,872.00	$312.00	$156
Proposed change in fee	-29%	43%	-43%	14%	-5%	43%	-18%	18%	-37%	-5%	43%	90%	43%	90%	-48%	-27%