



Starting a Mobile Food Business

MOBILE FOOD BUSINESS LICENSING REQUIREMENTS

Anyone providing food for sale is obliged under the *Food Act 2006* (the Act) and the *Australian New Zealand Food Standards Code* (the Code) to ensure that the food is safe and suitable for consumption. Businesses that handle food from mobile premises are subject to the same licensing requirements as those who operate out of fixed premises.

Examples of licensable mobile food businesses include:

- Ice cream vans
- Pie vans (e.g. smoko trucks)
- Mobile snack trucks
- Unpackaged food from a vending machine

Some mobile food businesses do not require a licence, for example, businesses only selling:

- pre-packaged food or some low risk snack foods
- tea and coffee
- ice or flavoured ice (e.g. slushies)

You must contact Council to determine if you require a licence **before** you commence operating. Only one licence from one local government is required if a mobile food business is operating in more than one local government area.

APPLYING FOR A FOOD BUSINESS LICENCE

Prior to starting or taking over a food business an Application for Food Business Licence* will need to be submitted to Council for assessment.

Along with submitting your application form, applicants must also:

- Submit the Transport Vehicle plan, showing details of the layout of all equipment, fixtures and fittings and the types of materials (refer to Food Premises Fit Out Guide* for minimum requirements); and
- Nominate a Food Safety Supervisor (refer to Food Safety Supervisor fact sheet*)

It is also recommended that if purchasing an existing licensed business the applicant undertakes a full health records search prior to purchase. This will provide up-to-date information about the business' level of compliance.

PERMITTED AND REGULATED LOCATIONS

There are a number of locations that mobile food businesses typically trade from, however some locations are regulated.

- Markets and events – these are the best locations for operating food businesses. You will need to deal directly with the event organizer.
- Private property – operating on private properties such as work places is permitted providing the business moves on after trading with that work place. If intending to sell to external customers from a private property, further Council approval may be required
- Council Parks – Generally mobile food vehicles are not permitted to trade from Council land unless for the purpose of a previously approved event (e.g. Christmas fair or markets).
- Roadside – Mobile food vehicles are not permitted to operate from a Council roadside unless they hold a permit to do so (Roadside vending permit). If on state controlled roads, approval will need to be obtained from the Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads.
- Itinerant vending permits are required for businesses wishing to travel from place to place selling goods once hailed down by customers (e.g. ice cream truck)

MORE INFORMATION

*Fact sheets, guides, application forms and fees and charges are available on Council's website www.banana.qld.gov.au/council-services/food. More detailed information for starting a new business can be found on the Queensland Health website www.qld.gov.au/health/staying-healthy/environmental/food and the Queensland Government's Business Queensland website www.business.qld.gov.au

How can you contact us?

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