



Bayside Council

Serving Our Community

Circus Management Policy

24 September 2025



© Bayside Council

File: SF16/1095 Document: 25/316246
Policy Register: F16/951 Policy No: PP25/10
Class of document: Council Policy

Enquiries: Manager Libraries & Lifestyle



Telephone Interpreter Services - 131 450

Τηλεφωνικές Υπηρεσίες Διερμηνέων

بخدمة الترجمة الهاتفية

電話傳譯服務處

Служба за преведување по телефон

Contents

1	Introduction	4
1.1	Background	4
1.2	Definitions	4
1.3	Policy statement.....	5
1.4	Scope of policy.....	5
2	Provisions.....	5
2.1	Council Requirements	5
3	Policy implementation	6
3.1	Policy responsibilities	6
3.2	Breaches.....	6
4	Document control.....	6
4.1	Review	6
4.2	Related documents	6
4.3	Version history	7

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

The Circus Management Policy sets out Bayside Council's (Council) position on circus operations in the Bayside Local Government Area (LGA).

The purpose of the Circus Management Policy is to provide a framework to guide the approval, administration, and operation of circuses in Council's LGA.

1.2 Definitions

The definitions of certain terms are:

Circus

A mobile show typically under a large tent that provides entertainment including acrobats, clowns and jugglers: often holding and exhibiting animals used in performances.

Circus Exhibitor

A person or company that holds an authority to exhibit animals for the purposes of a circus.

Council Land

Land under the care, control and management of Bayside Council.

Domestic Animals

Domestic animals are those that humans have tamed, kept in captivity, and selectively bred for specific purposes, resulting in notable differences in behaviour and appearance compared to their wild ancestors. *Examples include pets like dogs and cats, livestock like cattle and sheep, and work animals like horses and donkeys.*

Exotic/Wild Animals

"Wild and exotic animals" refers to animals that are not domesticated and live in the wild, often from regions far away from where they are kept and are not commonly found as household pets. *Examples include big cats, elephants, and primates.*

LEP

Local Environment Plan

1.3 Policy statement

- 1.3.1 Council encourages a diverse range of entertainment in the Bayside LGA.
- 1.3.2 Circuses that do not exhibit or use exotic and/or wild animals may operate in Bayside's LGA subject to the relevant approvals and consent being given.
- 1.3.3 Council is committed to ensuring that circuses operating on Council land comply with the relevant legislation, regulations and best practice standards in all aspects of health and safety and minimises the risk of improper care of animals.

1.4 Scope of policy

The policy applies to any organisation that is seeking approval to operate a Circus on Council land within the Bayside Local Government Area.

2 Provisions

2.1 Council Requirements

- 2.1.1 A circus that exhibits and/or uses domesticated animals may be permitted in Bayside's LGA.
- 2.1.2 The applicant must first receive the landholder's consent for the area on which the circus is to operate.
- 2.1.3 Circuses are to be located on sites that have the appropriate facilities to support the circus infrastructure and entertainment and not significantly impact on the surrounding amenities.
- 2.1.4 Council will not permit approved circus activities to be located at one site for more than 21 days
- 2.1.5 The applicant must lodge a development application in accordance Clause 2.8 of Bayside Council's LEP.
- 2.1.6 The applicant must demonstrate with evidence that relevant licenses, permits, approvals and requirements have been met regarding the keeping, exhibition and use of animals. This includes the following legislation, regulations and standards governed by Department of Primary Industries NSW;
 - a *Exhibited Animals Protection Act 1986,*
 - b *Exhibited Animals Protection Regulation 2021*
 - c *Standards for Exhibiting Circus Animals in New South Wales 2019*

3 Policy implementation

3.1 Policy responsibilities

- 3.1.1 Council's General Manager is the Policy Owner.
- 3.1.2 Council's Director City Futures is responsible for the Development Application and Assessment Process.
- 3.1.3 Council's Events and Design Team is responsible for liaising with the Circus organisation regarding the proposal and collaborating with key stakeholders to ensure compliance with conditions of consent and the event management plan.
- 3.1.4 Council's Libraries and Lifestyle Team is responsible for administering the booking in Council's bookings system for approved circus activities.

3.2 Breaches

- 3.2.1 Council reserves the right to revoke permission to operate a circus if the applicant is found to be in breach of;
 - a develop consent conditions issued.
 - b any legislation, regulation or standards including those protecting the welfare of animals.
 - c failure to pay the fees and charges issued.

4 Document control

4.1 Review

This policy is reviewed at least every four (4) years and when relevant legislation changes.

The General Manager in consultation with the Governance Team may make minor amendments as required.

4.2 Related documents

- 4.2.1 Bayside Council's Local Environmental Plan 2021
- 4.2.2 Local Government Act 1993
- 4.2.3 Exhibited Animals Protection Act 1986,
- 4.2.4 Exhibited Animals Protection Regulation 2021
- 4.2.5 Standards for Exhibiting Circus Animals in New South Wales 2019
- 4.2.6 RSPCA Policy – C02 Performing Animals

4.3 Version history

Version	Release Date	Author	Reason for Change
1.0	24/09/2025 (Council) 10/09/2025 (CS Committee)	Manager Libraries & Lifestyle	New document