

9.7 - Notice of Motion - Reducing Local Government Red Tape - Simplified Trading Partnership

Elected Member

Councillor Byas

Disclosure of Officers Interest:

No Officer involved in the preparation of this report has an interest to declare in accordance with the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

Notice of Motion

A Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Byas on 12 May 2024.

The Notice of Motion is:

“That Council:

1. REQUESTS the Chief Executive Officer conducts a structured consultation with registered food trucks and street vendors within the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale to identify:
 - a. opportunities for improving and streamlining the Shire’s licencing and permits process;
 - b. opportunities for improving and streamlining Council Policy 4.4.2. - Mobile Food Vendors; and
 - c. other topics and areas of improvement as determined by the Chief Executive Officer.
2. REQUESTS that the Chief Executive Officer consult with neighbouring Local Governments to explore opportunities to create a Simplified Trading Partnership Permit arrangement, with the goal of reducing red tape and promoting greater ease of movement between our Local Government Areas.
3. REQUESTS the Chief Executive Officer bring the findings of the above to a Policy Concept Forum, before formalising recommendations in a report to Council, to be presented no later than the August 2024 Ordinary Council Meeting.”

Relevant Previous Decisions of Council

There are no previous decision of Council relation to this matter.

Officer Comment

The Notice of Motion proposes tasks as part of undertaking a review of how the Shire manages its registered food trucks and street vendors. These tasks include:

1. structured consultations with registered food trucks and street vendors specific to:
 - identifying opportunities for improving/streamlining licencing and permitting processes;
 - identifying opportunities for improving/streamlining existing Council Policy 4.4.2; and
 - identifying any other topics and areas for improvement.

Contact Us

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2. consultation with neighbouring local governments as to the opportunities for a Simplified Trading Partnership Permit arrangement being introduced, which is currently a program in operation in Canning, Gosnells and Victoria Park. This program facilitates mobile food vendors attending approved events in these local governments only, by way of a one-off Permit and an annual fee.
3. a presentation to a Policy Concept Forum as to findings, and recommendations arising; and
4. subsequent reporting back to Council.

Officers note the increasing popularity of mobile food vendors not only within the Shire, but across many community environments where concentrations of customers exist, or could be pursued. While research continues as to the reasons for such popularity, there are some noted observations including:

- people liking convenience, especially in newly growing areas whereby the market may not have responded in the form of traditional bricks and mortar food service provision;
- people liking variety, insofar as the ability for different vendors to bring in their own experience into communities;
- people liking a degree of affordability;
- people liking place activation, with popular vendors often attracting visitors to areas that otherwise would not take place; and
- people liking flexibility and adaptability, for example in being able to have offerings which are up to date with consumer trends.

The above could be seen as beneficial in certain circumstances. However, there could also be some noted concerns with the ongoing rise of such offerings, and how this could impact other aspects of the local economy. For example:

- impacts on bricks and mortar business provision, due to the real or perceived 'uneven' competitive environment that exists. For example, the higher upfront set up costs of land and buildings, likely driving an increased marginal cost of producing, vs lower upfront costs that mobile food vendors may experience;
- broader impacts on the viability of town centres in the community, which rely on food and beverage offerings to sustain a vibrant area, which helps anchor other retail and commercial uses;
- potential loss of supply chains with local farm / food producers, who otherwise could supply more permanent businesses like those offered through bricks and mortar set ups.

In order to ensure a balanced analysis, Officers recommend a slightly modified recommendation.

Attachments (available under separate cover)

Nil.



Voting Requirements: Simple Majority

Elected Member Recommendation

That Council:

1. **REQUESTS** the Chief Executive Officer conducts a structured consultation with registered food trucks and street vendors within the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale to identify:
 - a. opportunities for improving and streamlining the Shire’s licencing and permits process;
 - b. opportunities for improving and streamlining Council Policy 4.4.2. - Mobile Food Vendors; and
 - c. other topics and areas of improvement as determined by the Chief Executive Officer.
2. **REQUESTS** that the Chief Executive Officer consult with neighbouring Local Governments to explore opportunities to create a Simplified Trading Partnership Permit arrangement, with the goal of reducing red tape and promoting greater ease of movement between our Local Government Areas.
3. **REQUESTS** the Chief Executive Officer bring the findings of the above to a Policy Concept Forum, before formalising recommendations in a report to Council, to be presented no later than the August 2024 Ordinary Council Meeting.

Alternate Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **REQUESTS** the Chief Executive Officer conducts a structured consultation with local retail food businesses, registered food trucks and street vendors within the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale to identify:
 - a. the most suitable locations and operational options for food trucks and street vendors, including length of stay, hours of operation and distance from competitors;
 - b. opportunities for improving, updating and/or streamlining the Shire’s licencing and permits process;
 - c. opportunities for improving, updating and/or streamlining Council Policy 4.4.2. – Mobile Food Vendors; and
 - d. other topics and areas of improvement as determined by the Chief Executive Officer.
2. **REQUESTS** that the Chief Executive Officer consult with the Cities of Gosnells, Canning and Town of Victoria Park to explore opportunities to potentially participate in their Simplified Trading Partnership Permit arrangement, which would involve Shire based mobile food vendors being able to attend approved events put on by those local governments, and the same being able to occur for Shire events.
3. **REQUESTS** the Chief Executive Officer bring the findings of the above to a Policy Concept Forum, before formalising recommendations in a report to Council, to be presented no later than the October 2024 Ordinary Council Meeting.