

PARKING FEES MANAGEMENT

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1. Purpose

To provide clear and consistent processes for considering whether parking fees in Council owned car parking areas should be suspended in relation to particular events, times of year or other special circumstances that may arise from time to time.

2. Background

Prior to Christmas 2002, Council regularly suspended parking fees around that time of year, to encourage more shoppers to visit the Dandenong CAD. The period of time for which fees were suspended varied from three days to two weeks.

In 2002, instead of suspending fees, Council provided a form of subsidy to Dandenong retailers, to assist in implementing a range of activities aimed at encouraging people to visit the area. The subsidy remains in place to the present time.

No suspension of fees occurred for the next three years. In 2005, fees were waived for six weeks commencing mid December. In that year, the initiative was the subject of some criticism from local traders, who were concerned that it had a detrimental impact on their businesses due to reduced access to parking for their customers.

Fees have also been suspended on other occasions in response to specific activities such as construction/re-development activity and special events.

This policy was developed to ensure that a consistent and balanced approach is used to assess whether it is appropriate to suspend parking fees in any particular circumstances, including over the Christmas trading period each year.

3. Scope

This policy will apply to all decisions made by Council and/or the Chief Executive Officer.

4. References

- Local Government Act 1989

5. Definitions

‘Parking fee’ means:

The fee required to be paid for parking in a given parking area owned by the Greater Dandenong City Council, in accordance with signage displayed in that area.

‘Chief Executive Officer’(CEO) means :

The person appointed by Council to be its Chief Executive Officer or any person acting in that position.

6. Council Policy

In October each year the CEO shall request a report from the relevant Council Officers, to determine whether parking fees should be suspended for the Christmas period of that year.

The report will provide information on the following:

- Current parking space occupancy rates;
- Local economic conditions;
- Trader organisation views;
- Councillor views;
- Any other relevant matters.

Upon receipt of this report, the Chief Executive Officer or his delegate may authorise the waiving of parking fees for a specified interval during the Christmas trading period each year.

This decision should be made no later than 15 November each year, to allow effective advertising of the fee waiver to the community.

Greater Dandenong Policy

At any other time deemed necessary, the Chief Executive Officer may request a report from officers to determine whether parking fees should be suspended in respect of any other particular circumstances that may arise, as outlined in this policy. Any such report will provide the same range of information as set out above.

Upon receipt of this report, the Chief Executive Officer or his delegate may authorise the waiving of parking fees for a specified interval in relation to the subject circumstances. This decision should be made in sufficient time to allow effective advertising of the fee waiver to the community.

7. Related Documents

Nil.