

October 2, 2018

Community feedback prompts Council to amend Commercial Activities policy

Gladstone Regional Council today adopted amendments to its Commercial Activities on Council Land policy in response to feedback from residents and local business owners.

A survey conducted in July showed that most respondents were in support of Mobile or Stationary Vending, such as coffee and food vans, if minimum distances from similar businesses were regulated.

The adopted policy includes considerations such as proximity to other businesses, ensuring menu items provide variety rather than competing with existing businesses and the length of stay in any one location, to limit impacts on businesses.

Results from the survey also highlighted the importance for Council to support local startup businesses and providing variety and diversity to the region.

The policy also includes changes to commercial beach activities after survey results revealed public concerns about the safety of beach goers on Agnes Water Beach.

Gladstone Region Acting Mayor, Chris Trevor said the safety of residents was paramount.

“Community feedback has highlighted the need to improve the conditions under which commercial beach activities operate, relating mostly to surf schools,” he said.

“We recognise the great work our surf schools do for tourism, but our beaches are for everyone to enjoy, and we want to ensure they are safe for all beach goers. Which has ultimately led to us placing some conditions on commercial activities,” Councillor Trevor said.

New safety measures will manage the number of participants per instructor, the distance between the commercial activity and flagged areas, and the number of operators in a location.

“We asked our community what activities they would like to see and are supportive of in our region, and it was clear that our community were supportive of the changes,” Cr Trevor said.

“The results of the survey have been extremely useful in reviewing and amending Policy and Corporate Standard that shape how Council receives, assesses and approves Commercial Activities operating on Council Land.”

MEDIA INFORMATION: For further information contact Council’s Community Relations Section on 4976 6946.