



**KATHERINE**  
TOWN COUNCIL

## GUIDELINES

### ACTIVATING PUBLIC SPACE GUIDELINES

Type:	Corporate Guidelines		
Owner:	Director Infrastructure and Environment		
Responsible Officer:	Director Infrastructure and Environment		
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Legislation Reference:			

#### 1 PURPOSE

This guideline provides a framework and information for an activation trial of one of Katherine Town Council's public spaces.

Council is committed to implementing a responsible and consistent approach to activating its public spaces.

Public spaces are our streets, open spaces and public facilities. They are publicly owned and provided for public use, accessible to and enjoyable by all for free.

Public spaces are the heart of our communities and can define the lived experience and wellbeing of everyday life. The careful design, delivery, and management of public spaces is essential.

#### 2 SCOPE

This guideline applies to activating an identified public space of Katherine Town Council, for a trial period of six (6) weeks from 28 July 2022 to 4 September 2022.

When a public space is activated, a diverse range of people feel welcome there and use the space for a variety of purposes, making it vibrant and lively.

People develop a sense of ownership of the activated space, which encourages them to look after it and spend more time there.

Activation, as related to public space, is typically used interchangeably with the terms vibrancy, animation, liveliness, or programming.

The following principles will guide Council's decision making for the successful activation of its public spaces.

**1. Open and welcoming**

Activation should welcome people of all ages, genders, abilities, cultures, religions, incomes, and backgrounds.

**2. Community focused**

Activation should be a participatory process that helps people socialise and take ownership of public spaces.

**3. Culture and Creativity**

Activation should share stories, values, history, perspectives, and personal expression

**4. Local Character and Identity**

Activation should build on the existing character of the place, its heritage, and its people.

**5. Green and Resilient**

Activation should embody sustainability and promote ecological awareness

**6. Healthy and active**

Activation should support physical and mental health.

**7. Local Business and economies**

Activation should support local businesses and economies.

**8. Safe and secure**

Activation should enhance the safety of public spaces.

**9. Designed for place**

Activation should make public spaces more comfortable and useable and balance the needs for activity and for rest.

**10. Well-managed**

Activation should be managed with appropriate resources and funding to ensure quality outcomes.

The public space identified for this trial is the public car park located next to the Katherine Cinema, 18 First Street, Katherine.

The trial will take place over a six (6) week period from 28 July 2022 to 4 September 2022.

The intention of the trial is to activate this space by inviting mobile food vendors to set up and operate from this space on Thursday and Sunday evenings from 5:30pm throughout the trial period.

- The trial will be promoted as the “Food Van Collective”.
- For this trial, the site will be provisioned with stools, tables, cushions, umbrellas, artificial grass, festoon lighting, fairy lighting and a generator power supply. External funding has been successfully obtained for this trial.
- A shipping container will be located on the site throughout the trial period to store these resources.
- All mobile food premises participating must be on wheels and capable of vacating the site at the conclusion of each evening of the trial. A mobile food premises is a van, trailer or cart with wheels from which food is sold.
- All mobile food premises must meet food safety standards including being self-sufficient with enough potable water for one day of operations.
- All mobile food premises must have a current food business registration with NT Public Health and a KTC vending permit. A vending permit will be provided upon successful application.
- All mobile food premises must have a current public liability insurance.
- All mobile premises must be in accordance with any other legislative requirements and/or laws.
- All mobile food premises must display their food business registration and permit when operating their business.
- All mobile food premises must acknowledge and understand the Activating Public Spaces Guidelines.
- The trial is intended to support Katherine’s growing range of local mobile food businesses.

Our streets, open spaces, and public facilities are part of a network of public space across the town.

Public spaces that are connected, legible, and allow people to engage in public life easily, make an area liveable. This includes streets for people that are safe, attractive, and comfortable public spaces for movement and gathering.

Public facilities include public libraries, museums, galleries, civic and community centres, showgrounds, and indoor public sports facilities. As social infrastructure, these public spaces contribute to community identity, inclusion, and cohesion.

Access to high-quality and free services has a direct impact on the social and economic wellbeing of citizens. Activation can amplify the value of public spaces and their community benefits, as appropriate to the spaces.

Research shows that active public spaces are important in attracting residents, workers, and visitors. Activated public space extends active periods across the day and evening, and increases dwell times, which generates economic benefits.

More active and appealing public spaces foster greater attachment to place, reduce vandalism and anti-social behaviour, and improve safety. Activation results in a greater diversity of people and cultural backgrounds, and the sharing and exchange of cultures, ideas, and personal expression. It also reinforces a more inclusive and representative community identity. Activation can improve environmental outcomes for greenery, urban heat mitigation, water, biodiversity, and can increase personal awareness and stewardship.

A desire for activate, vibrant, and lively public spaces is a consistent aspiration that came through in recent public consultation in the development of Katherine’s Strategic Plan.

#### Revision History

Version	Approval date	Details of change	Responsible officer
1	13 July 2022	Creation	Director Inf & Env.