



KATHERINE
TOWN COUNCIL

GUIDELINES

ACTIVATING PUBLIC SPACE GUIDELINES

Type:	Corporate Guidelines		
Owner:	Director Community Services		
Responsible Officer:	Director Community Services		
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1 PURPOSE

This guideline provides a framework and information for an activation 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 twelve (12) week period, commencing 18th of May 2023 through to 3rd of August 2023.

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 Activate Katherine project is the public car park located next to the Katherine Cinema, 18 First Street, Katherine.

This event will take place every second Thursday for a twelve (12) week period, commencing 18th of May 2023 through until 3rd of August 2023.

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 evenings from 5:30pm throughout the twelve (12) week period.

- The event will be promoted as the 'Katherine Food Collective'.
- 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 to store these resources.
- All food vendors participating must be capable of vacating the site at the conclusion of each evening of the trial.
- All food vendors must meet food safety standards including being self-sufficient with enough potable water for one day of operations.
- All food vendors must be registered as a food business with NT Public Health.
- The project is intended to support Katherine's growing range of local 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 activated, 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 2023	Creation	Director Inf & Env.
2	28 February 2023	Amendments to 2. Scope, 4. Details to Project.	Director of Community Services.