WHAT IS BUSKING?

Busking is a person (or group of people) performing within a public place in exchange for a donation. Council divides busking into 2 categories.

Category A busking covers activities such as playing a musical instrument, dancing, singing, puppetry, miming or other acts of a similar nature.

Category B busking covers:
- Acts that use dangerous materials or instruments
- Balance, juggling or circle acts
- Pavement art performances
- Those using percussion or noisy instruments

DO I NEED A PERMIT TO BUSK?

Yes. Council issues permits for busking on Council-controlled land, such as footpaths, the Esplanade and parks.

Council issues two types of Busking Permits – an Initial Permit and a Standard Permit.

Initial Permit
An Initial Permit is for four weeks (unless otherwise stated) and will be issued if:
- The busker has not had a permit before
- The busking activity is a Category A activity
- The busking activity is to be carried out at a pre-approved location within the Cairns CBD (see map on back)

Standard Permit
A Standard Permit is for 12 months (unless otherwise stated) and will be issued if:
- The busker has previously had an initial permit and wishes to continue busking
- The busking activity is a Category B activity
- The busking activity will take place outside the pre-approved locations in the Cairns CBD

DOES IT COST TO GET A BUSKING PERMIT?

No. There are no fees or charges associated with obtaining or holding a busking permit.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR A BUSKING PERMIT?

How to apply
Fill in a Busking Permit Application Form and submit it, in person, to Council at our Esplanade Office between 9am and noon on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The office is not open on weekends.

The Esplanade office is at 52-54 The Esplanade.

Council does not issue group permits; each member of the group must submit an individual application form.

What to bring
You will need photo identification that has your signature, a recent photograph and your date of birth, such as a driver’s licence, passport, or student ID card.

If your documents are not in English, such as an overseas driver’s licence, you must also bring a full English translation of the document.

If you are under 16, you will require signed consent from a parent or guardian.

If you are conducting a performance that includes dangerous materials or implements you must provide a Public Liability Insurance Certificate in the amount of $20 million.

WEB: WWW.CAIRNS.QLD.GOV.AU PHONE: 1300 69 22 47 ESPLANADE OFFICE: 52-54 THE ESPLANADE
DO I NEED TO AUDITION?
Buskers applying for an Initial Permit need to audition. You must have a performance-ready repertoire sufficient for a 50-minute set, without undue repetition.
A date and time for your audition will be set once Council receives your application for a busking permit.

WHEN CAN I BUSK?
Busking is permitted between 8am and 11.50pm, 7 days a week.
In order to provide fair and equitable access to busking sites, particularly popular sites, busking performances are limited to 50 minutes, with 10 minutes either side of the performance to set up and set down.
Buskers can only busk once at one location, but can busk at multiple locations on any one day.

WHERE CAN I BUSK?
Your busking permit allows you to busk at any of the CBD locations on the map on the next page. Please note there are a limited number of locations where noisy or dangerous acts are allowed.
If you wish to busk in an area not on the map, or outside the CBD, please specify the location on your busking application.

CAN I SELL CDs?
Yes, buskers are allowed to sell their own CDs.

DO I NEED INSURANCE?
Public Liability Insurance is designed for professionals who interact with customers or members of the public. It protects against claims of personal injury or property damage that a third party suffers (or claims to have suffered) as a result of your business activities.