INFORMATION SHEET

# Busking Guidelines and Locations

*The City of Victor Harbor values the vibrancy that buskers and street performers bring to public spaces. Busking helps create a lively, welcoming atmosphere for both residents and visitors. To maintain safety, fairness and amenity of the Council area, all buskers must hold a valid permit issued by the Council.*

**What is Busking?**

Busking is live performance in a public space, usually for voluntary donations. Busking may include (but not limited to):

- Performing with an instrument or instruments.
- Performance of a dance routine.
- Juggling, clowning, puppetry, magic or mime.
- Comedy, spoken word or poetry.
- Actively working in an artistic medium (excluding aerosol art).

The activity may include an individual or group of persons.

The following activities are **NOT** considered busking:

- Vendors of any kind – including flowers, jewellery, food and other merchandise.
- Performances that involve animals.
- Touting or spruiking, including street preaching.
- Political rallying.
- Tarot card reading, palmistry and fortune telling.
- Face or body painting, including henna and temporary tattoo application.
- Begging or requesting money.
- Massage treatments or any physical manipulation.
- Artists selling pre-fabricated works. The artist must be active in creating the work as part of the performance for it to be considered busking under these Guidelines.

Permits will not be issued to businesses, clubs or organisations promoting products or services.

**Do I need a Permit?**

Yes. A permit is required under Section 222 of the Local Government Act 1999 and By-law 3 – Roads and By-Law 4 – Local Government to busk in the **Council** area.

Applications can be made online, or via hardcopy with supporting documents and payment of the permit fee.

**Where can I Busk?**

Busking is only permitted in approved locations, including (but not limited to):

- Ocean Street
- Grosvenor Gardens
- Warland Reserve
- Coral Street
- Railway Terrace/Railway Plaza Precinct
- Soldiers Memorial Gardens
- Causeway Precinct

Refer to Attachment 1 for each location.

## Applying for a Permit

To apply, applicants must submit:

- Completed application form (online or hardcopy).
- Proof of identification and address for each participant.
- Parent/guardian consent is required if the busker is under the age of 16.

Assessment of the application will commence once all documentation has been submitted. Permits will be emailed within 10 business days. Unsuccessful applicants will also be notified within the same timeframe.

## Permit fee

- Permits are available on a daily, monthly or six-monthly basis.
- Fees are set by Council and are contained within the Fees and Charges register.
- Permits are not transferable.

## Permit Conditions

- Permit holders may only perform at approved locations, dates and times listed on the permit
- Permit holders must maintain 50 metres from other buskers, events or promotions.
- Noise (amplification or percussion) must be limited to 50 metres and not disturb traders, the public or residents.
- Permit holders must keep a copy of the permit with them at all times
- Permits are not renewed automatically and expired permits may not be used.
- Permit holders must not harass persons, obstruct pedestrians, or cause unreasonable disturbance.
- Permit holders under 12 must be supervised by a parent/guardian.
- Permit holders under 16 may only perform outside school hours and in daylight.
- Alcohol must not be sold or consumed in the busking area.
- Busking Groups of six (6) or more persons must have a current Public Liability Insurance as part of their permit

## Prohibited without written Council approval

- Use of sharp objects, knives, or dangerous instruments.
- Use of stockwhips or whips of any kind.
- Use of fire or flammable liquids.
- Use of children (under the age of 16) or animals as part of the act.
- Charging a fee for a performance.
- Advertising products, services, or sponsors.

## Council's Rights

- Permits may be suspended or cancelled for breaches of these conditions.
- Council may vary permit conditions or withdraw approvals at any time.
- No refunds will be given if a permit is suspended or cancelled.

## Enforcement

Authorised officers may check permits at any time and non-compliance can result in fines and/or cancellation of the permit

## Strategic Plan reference

The City of Victor Harbor Community Plan 2036 provides the strategic context for these guidelines.

## Delegation

Customer Liaison Officer's will assess and approve permit applications for permits that meet the criteria outlined in the Guidelines.

City of Victor Harbor Authorised Officers are responsible for responding and investigating

any complaints or reports of activities that do not comply with the permit conditions

**Document Control**

| Version | Date Approved | Approved by | Description of Change |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 27 January 2026 | Council – OC82026 | Adopted guidelines and provided delegation to the CEO amend the guidelines |
| 2 | 7 September 2026 | SMT | Adopted reviewed guidelines and application form |

List of 11 Approved Busking Sites – Attachment 1

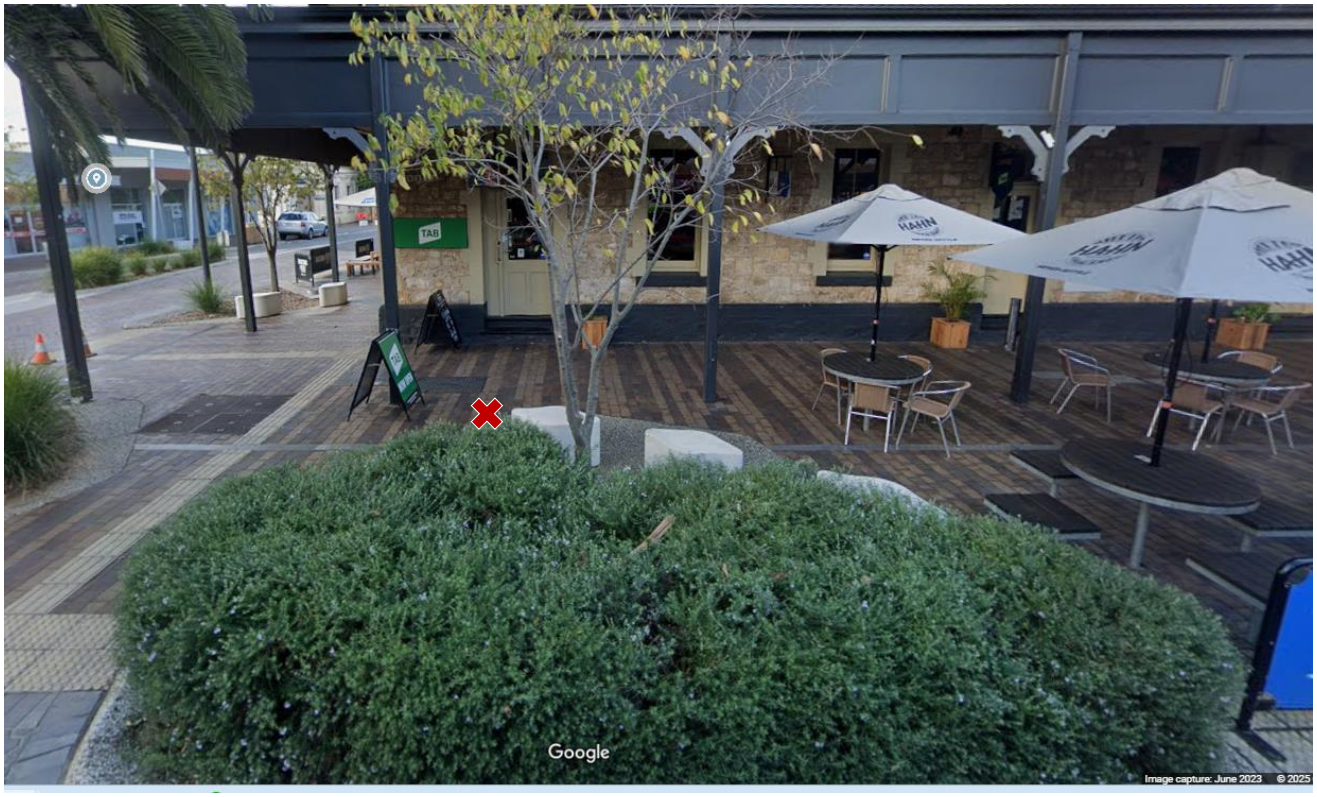
## Busking Location 1 – Victor Harbor Post Office

## Busking Location 2 – Phil Hoffman Travel

## Busking Location 3 – Bank SA

## Busking Location 4 – InterSport

## Busking Location 5 – Grosvenor Hotel

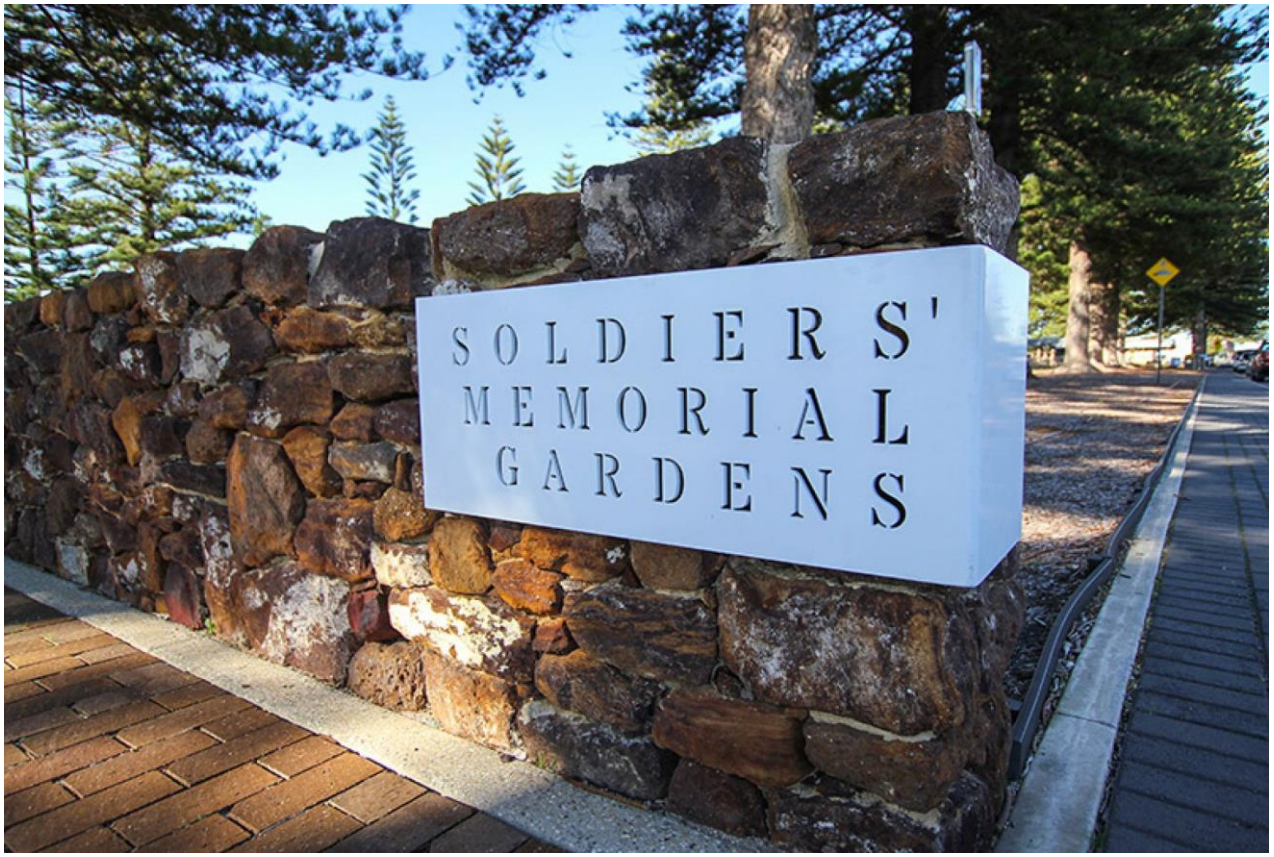


## Busking Location 6 – Subway

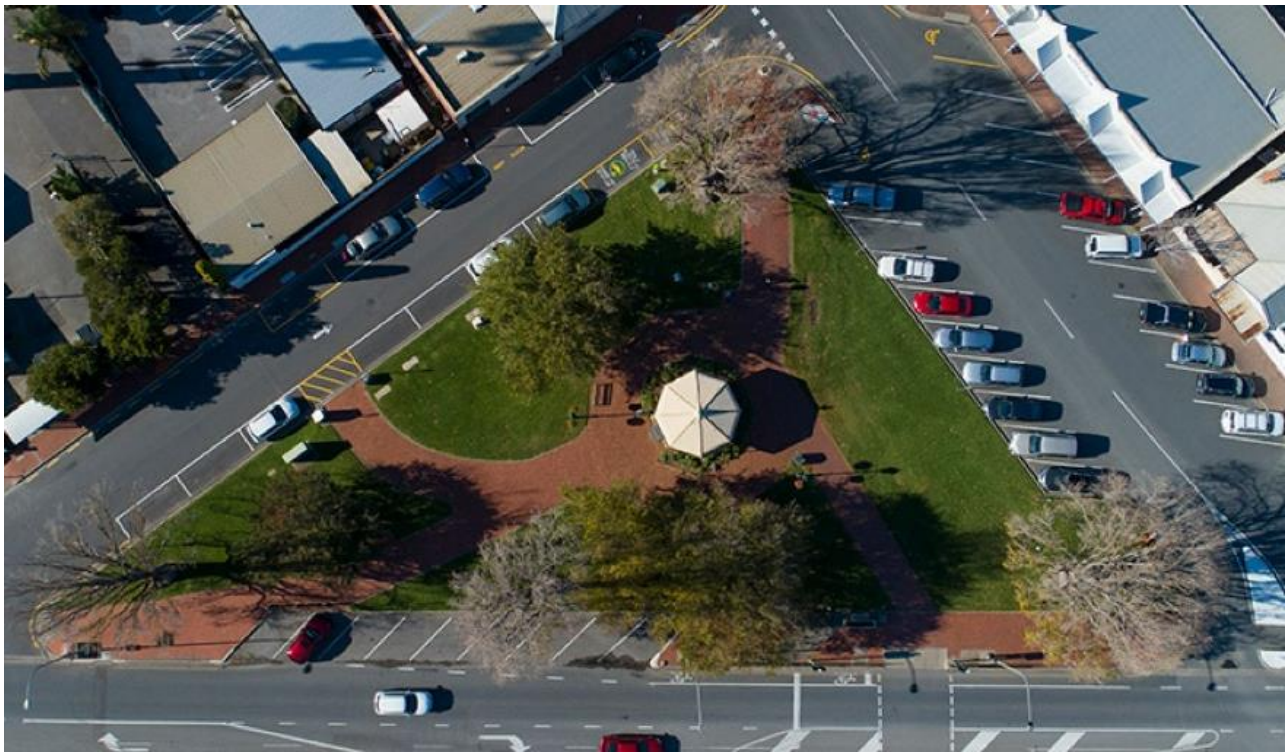
**Busking Location 7 – Warland Reserve (subject to no other events being approved under the Festival and Events Policy)**

## Busking Location 8 – Railway Precinct

## Busking Location 9 – Soldiers Memorial Reserve


SOLDIERS'
MEMORIAL
GARDENS

## Busking Location 10 – Grosvenor Gardens



## Busking Location 12 – Causeway