



**BYRON
SHIRE
COUNCIL**

Policy

Car Share

2022

Information about this document

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Further Document Information and Relationships

Related Legislation	
Related Policies	
Related Standards, Procedures, Statements, documents	

Note: Any reference to Legislation will be updated in the Policy as required. See website <http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/> for current Acts, Regulations and Environmental Planning Instruments.

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A Policy to enable car sharing

Council is looking for new and innovative ways to encourage more sustainable modes of travel for residents, tourists and council staff for the long term. Car sharing has been identified as a way to provide an alternative to private car ownership in the short term and to influence the reduction in use of private vehicles in local town centres in the long term.

1. Background

This Policy sets out Council's support for car sharing and similar schemes. From a long-term strategic planning perspective, Council sees the value in a more sustainable approach to travel and transport where a more diverse array of transport options are available. Council also acknowledges the community's strong desire to ease congestion, and sees the introduction of car sharing as one part of the solution.

Car sharing is a model of 24/7 car rental where numbers of people are able to use the same car, but at different times (using increasingly sophisticated booking systems and real time technology platforms). Car sharing refers to the system whereby a 'user' books a time slot to rent a car, which is available at a nominated 'pod' car parking space which is 'leased by arrangement' by the local council and managed by the car sharing company.

The vehicles available under this scheme are collectively owned by an organisation and are made available to the organisation's members via a membership system and small rental usage fees. The concept of car sharing is attractive to various types of customers such as those who cannot afford to buy and maintain a car (or just view cars as a poor investment), people who want to reduce their car use and carbon footprint, people who only need occasional access to a vehicle, workers making use of a car pool and others who would like occasional access to a vehicle of a different type than they use day-to-day (such as a utility or a van).

Car sharing is part of a larger trend of shared mobility and while it is dominant in high density, urban areas of Australia, it is acknowledged that opportunities exist in regional areas.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this Policy is to enable and facilitate the introduction of car sharing in the Byron Shire.

The purpose of this Policy is to:

- Define the benefits of car share to members and the local community
- Encourage the introduction and uptake of car sharing in the Shire
- Diversify the transport options available to the community

3. Objectives

The objective of this Policy is to encourage the introduction of car sharing. Research shows that the operation of a car sharing scheme presents many benefits. In the Byron Shire it is expected that car sharing could contribute to the following outcomes:

- a) a diversified transport system;

- b) a reduction in private vehicle ownership dependence;
- c) provision of a transport option for residents that may deliver greater affordability, flexibility and social inclusion;
- d) provision of an alternative option to site development including an option for no parking to deliver better design outcomes for sustainability;
- e) reduction in traffic and congestion;
- f) reduction of on-street parking demand in the Shire;
- g) reduction of emissions and contributions to the Zero Emissions targets; and
- h) provision of an alternative to traditional fleet leasing model for council staff

4. Scope

This Policy applies to locations in the Shire that are considered suitable to encourage the up-take of car sharing and respond to increased demand for additional car share spaces, subject to review of this Policy. For more information on what is considered suitable, please refer to Byron Shire Council's Car Share Procedure.

5. Car sharing principles (policy provisions)

5.1 Council supports the concept of car sharing

Council supports the concept of car sharing, noting that there are many different schemes and models available (and that this industry is growing to match market demand). There are many different types of car sharing models and other councils around Australia use various types and mixes of car sharing, peer-to-peer, point-to-point and other schemes to meet the needs of users and their community. This continues to develop and change in line with advancements in technology and market trends and demands. Any model or scheme can be considered that delivers on the objectives and meets the principles of this Policy.

5.2 Council will conduct transparent procurement processes in relation to car sharing

When an opportunity is established to enable/provide a car sharing scheme, Council will conduct an open, market-based procurement process to select the preferred provider/s as per its Procurement Policy. Formal agreements will be entered into between Council and car share organisations wishing to operate in the Shire. Any proposed partnership between a car share provider and Council will need to conform to Council's Supporting Partnerships Policy.

5.3 Council may provide dedicated on-street and/or off-street spaces for car sharing as appropriate, to assist in the establishment of a scheme

Council may approve the allocation of car spaces in public car parks or on public roads for the purposes of car sharing. Council acknowledges that, in order for car sharing to be a viable travel choice for the community, a sufficient and well located network of car share bays and vehicles needs to be established with any costs incurred being passed on to the car share operator

6. Strategic framework

Byron Shire Council's [Community Strategic Plan 2028 \(CSP\)](#) – *our Byron, our Future*. Council's CSP sets out a strong focus on sustainability that includes commitments such as 'to support a network of integrated sustainable transport options' and 'manage traffic and parking in an efficient manner'.

Byron Bay Town Centre Masterplan (Masterplan) was adopted by Council in June 2016, following a period of extensive community engagement throughout 2015-2016. A copy is available online here: [Byron Bay Town Centre Masterplan](#). The masterplan identifies the need to introduce new planning controls including amendments to the Byron LEP 2014 and Byron DCP 2014 to support a pedestrian prioritised centre that supports and integrates alternate modes of transport and creates opportunities for car parking facilities on the edge of the town centre and public transport facilities on the western side of the north coast rail corridor, close to Butler Reserve.

Council's draft changes to [Byron Development Control Plan \(DCP\) 2014](#) includes proposed amendments to identify the maximum number of car parking spaces that may be provided to service particular uses of land in the Zone B3 Commercial Core, and to minimise the amount of vehicular traffic generated because of proposed development and address provision of parking spaces for car share schemes.

7. Sustainability and innovation

Byron Shire Council supports innovative and forward thinking and strategic planning embedded with quadruple bottom line outcomes. This includes outcomes that encourage social inclusion, achieve environmental gains such as emission reduction, provide long term cost savings to the Council and demonstrate leadership and good governance.

8. Definitions

Policy acronym	Definition
Car share scheme	<i>means a scheme in which a body corporate, an unincorporated body or a public authority owns or manages and maintains vehicles for shared or communal use and hires those vehicles exclusively to members of the scheme for occasional use for short periods of time, on demand and on a pay-as-you go basis.</i>
On-street car share bay	<i>Refers to the dedicated parking spaces located on local and arterial roads, which are occupied by a vehicle provided and managed by the respective car share provider.</i>
Off-street car share bay	<i>Refers to parking spaces in off-street car parks, residential or commercial buildings or properties.</i>