

FACT SHEET

Proposed re-introduction of Outdoor Dining Fees



Kempsey Shire Council is proposing to re-introduce outdoor dining fees following a review of the previous fee structure. Outdoor dining plays an important role in creating vibrant town centres and enhancing visitor experiences across the Macleay Valley. This fact sheet provides information on the proposed changes, why they are being proposed to be re-introduced, and how businesses can provide feedback.

What is being proposed?

Kempsey Shire Council is proposing to re-introduce fees for outdoor dining on public land following a review of the previous fee structure.

Who does this apply to?

Businesses that use public footpaths, streets, or other Council-managed land for outdoor dining purposes.

Why are fees being introduced?

- To ensure fair use of public space
- To provide a consistent and transparent fee structure
- To balance business use with community access

When will the fees commence?

If the draft 2026-27 fees and charges are adopted as proposed at the June 2026 Council Meeting, the fees will be applicable from 1 July 2026.

What are the proposed fees?

As outlined on page 48 of the draft 2026-27 Fees and Charges document, the outdoor dining fees are proposed as follows:

Application Fee

Application Fee		\$300.00
-----------------	--	-----------------

Rental Fees

Kempsey CBD (Smith St, between Belgrave St and Forth St)	Per m2	\$120.00
Town Centres / Strips (West Kempsey, South West Rocks, Crescent Head)	Per m2	\$80.00
Villages (Hat Head, Frederickton, Stuarts Point, Gladstone)	Per m2	\$45.00

Where can you view Council's draft 2026-27 fees and charges?

Council's draft 2026-27 Fees and Charges can be found in the Integrated Planning and Reporting Public Exhibition page through engagement platform *Your Say Macleay*: <https://ksc.pub/draft-operational-plan-2026-27>

Hard copy documents are also available to view at the Customer Service Centre, 22 Tozer Street, West Kempsey and at Council libraries in Kempsey, South West Rocks and Stuarts Point.

How can businesses provide feedback?

Council is inviting feedback from businesses and the community during the public exhibition of council's Integrated Planning and Reporting documents, which includes the draft 2026-27 Fees and Charges. You can provide feedback by:

- Completing the online survey through *Your Say Macleay* : <https://ksc.pub/draft-operational-plan-2026-27>
- By email to ksc@kempsey.nsw.gov.au;
- In person at the Customer Service Counter;
- By mail to:

*The Chief Executive Officer
Kempsey Shire Council
PO Box 3078
West Kempsey NSW 2440*

Key dates

- Public exhibition period: 28 days starting 4 May 2026 and closing **Monday, 1 June 2026**
- Council Meeting: 16 June 2026

What happens next?

- Submissions will be collected and reviewed by Council staff
- Submissions will be considered with responses presented to the 16 June 2026 Council meeting
- If the draft 2026-27 fees and charges are adopted as proposed, Council will contact impacted businesses to provide information on the application process and commence implementation of the new fees

Further information

For more information or to provide feedback, visit the Your Say Macleay page or contact Kempsey Shire Council.