



HUON VALLEY COUNCIL

MEDIA RELEASE

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Mobile Food Van Trial evaluation

The Huon Valley Council's six month Mobile Food Van Trial has been evaluated and the recommendations presented to the July Council meeting.

The trial was conducted to gauge the level of support from the community and local businesses for the establishment of a Mobile Food Van Program after Council received several enquiries from mobile operators about trading opportunities throughout the Huon Valley.

Huon Valley Commissioner Adriana Taylor says Council did not have a policy or guidelines permitting mobile food vans when these enquiries were received.

"This was an opportunity to trial the suitability of food vans in the Valley. The six month trial from December 2017 to May 2018 looked at whether a program catering to mobile food vans would be viable, and how their presence might affect local food and beverage businesses.

"Because the trial looked at the vans operating on Council land, we had to consider various risk factors such as pedestrian and road user safety, obstruction to council and public facilities and the potential effect on existing businesses.

"Local businesses have made considerable capital investment in the Valley and face costs such as rates that the mobile food vans do not. We did not want the trial to impinge on their businesses, which is why we included a 100 metre exclusion zone from existing business premises that provide a year-round service and allowed the vans to operate within the town boundaries after these businesses are closed.

"Most of the trial participants have all indicated they would like to continue on a permanent basis.

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“While there are some minor adjustments to be made to the guidelines and registration process, the recommendation to Council is for an ongoing mobile food vendor program in accordance with the Council’s Mobile Food Business Guidelines.

“The Council is committed to supporting existing food and beverage businesses, whilst recognising the value that these mobile services can provide to areas that do not currently enjoy such opportunities,” Commissioner Taylor said.

For more information
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