

Name of policy:	Abandoned Vehicles and Vessels		
Policy code:			
Adoption by Council:	24 June 2020	Minute number:	181/2020
Last review date:			
Review timeframe:	4 years		
Next scheduled review date:	February 2024		
Related legislation:	<i>Impounding Act 1993 and Regulations</i> <i>Local Government Act 1993 and Regulations</i> <i>Roads Act 1993 and Regulation</i> <i>Road Transport Act 2013, Regulations and Australian Road Rules</i>		
Associated policies/documents:	Code of Conduct		
Responsible division:	Liveable Communities		

Policy objective

To ensure legislation and resources are applied to achieve positive environmental, health and safety outcomes for the community in an ethical and transparent manner.

Policy statement

- To ensure any abandoned vehicles and vessels are identified and then managed in a manner that is consistent with legislative requirements.
- Provide guidance to Council staff in order to achieve the ethical and transparent management and disposal of abandoned and impounded vehicles and vessels.
- Reinforce the adherence to Council's Code of Conduct, legislation, the principles of natural justice and procedural fairness in Council's management of abandoned vehicles and vessels.

Coverage of the policy

This Policy relates directly to staff within Ranger Services and indirectly to all staff who may have occasions to assist or be in the vicinity of abandoned or impounded vehicles and vessels.

Strategic Plan link

Delivery Program and Operational Plan, Strategy 6.1.2. Develop and implement procedures to support the compliance strategy and policy

Policy content

- Rangers will develop and maintain a Standard Operational Procedure (SOP) for the identification and management of abandoned vehicles and vessels.
- Council will maintain “Public Pounds” in Taree, Tuncurry, Tea Gardens and Gloucester for the holding and security of impounded vehicles and vessels.
- Access into Council’s “Public Pounds” will be restricted only to relevant authorised staff delegated as authorised officers for the *Impounding Act 1993*, or other staff authorised by the Team Leader, Ranger Services to perform grounds maintenance.
- Any vehicles or vessels that are required to be sold due to having an estimated market value of \$500 or more will be sold by public auction through an online public auction site.
- Vehicles or vessels with a determined value that is less than \$500 will be available for emergency service training if required, prior to disposal.

Definitions

“Public Pound” as defined in the *Impounding Act 1993*.

“On Line Public Auction” is a website specifically for the exposure and sale of goods and services by way of auction that is accessible to all members of the public.

Complaint Service request

Any complaints received by a member of the public in relation to the impounding of a vehicle or vessel will be investigated by Manager of Governance.

References and related documents

Ranger Service Standard Operational Procedure, Abandoned Vehicles and Vessels

Responsible officer (position)

Manager Major Assessment and Regulatory Services

Attachments

Nil