

Circular to Councils

Subject	Mutual Recognition – Councils’ Local Approvals for mobile businesses
Circular Details	24-18 /12 September 2024/ A909286
Previous Circular	N/A
Who should read this	Councillors / General Managers / All council staff / Environmental Health teams, Local business approval teams
Contact	OLG Policy Team / 02 4428 4100 / vibrancy@olg.nsw.gov.au
Action required	Response to OLG

What’s new or changing?

- As part of the NSW Vibrancy Reforms, the Office of Local Government (OLG) is developing a mutual recognition framework.
- This will allow an approval granted to a business under Section 68 of the *Local Government Act 1993* by one council to be recognised across multiple local government areas.
- This will initially apply to approvals granted for the following mobile businesses:
 - food trucks
 - market stall holders
 - buskers
 - outdoor fitness trainers
- Councils are invited to provide input into the development of the mutual recognition framework by completing an online survey.

What will this mean for council?

- Mutual recognition aims to reduce red tape, time, cost, and resourcing required for both councils and mobile businesses when preparing and assessing Section 68 approvals.

- Councils are requested to provide input through the online survey by 5pm 24 October 2024.

Key points

- Currently mobile businesses must seek a separate approval in each council area they wish to operate.
- The *Local Government Amendment Act 2019* makes provisions for the mutual recognition framework however, the provisions will not commence until regulations and guidance material have been developed.
- The survey seeks to gather initial input from key stakeholders including councils, mobile businesses (in the 4 categories mentioned above) and the general public, focusing on high-level issues to consider when developing the framework.
- The survey can be completed via the OLG Website:
<https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/programs-and-initiatives/mutual-recognition>
- Responses to the survey will inform the development of a policy, regulations, and guidance materials for councils.
- Further opportunities for feedback such as a via a discussion paper and online workshops may be made available later this year as the framework is being developed.

Where to go for further information

- Further information on the review is available on the Office of Local Government's website - <https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/programs-and-initiatives/mutual-recognition>, or by contacting the Policy team on 02 4428 4100 or via email at vibrancy@olg.nsw.gov.au

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