

Item 6.

Public Exhibition - Markets Policy

File No: S077647

Summary

The Markets Policy sets the City of Sydney's approach to the approval of markets and sets out the requirements of market operators to achieve quality market operations. The Policy is designed to create well managed markets that contribute to and support local communities and local businesses.

Markets can improve access to quality food and produce, improve social interaction, and provide opportunities for innovative ideas and businesses to develop. Research commissioned in Australia and internationally has consistently shown that markets can benefit local communities and businesses. People who visit markets also spend money at nearby shops.

The Market Policy was approved by Council on 29 June 2015 and is due for review. Minor amendments have been made to update the Policy and enhance ease of use. These amendments do not alter the intent of the Policy.

This report recommends that Council approve the draft Markets Policy for public exhibition. Following the exhibition period, all public comments will be considered and the Policy presented to Council, with any required changes, for adoption.

Recommendation

It is resolved that Council endorse for public exhibition the draft Markets Policy as shown at Attachment A to the subject report for a period of 14 days.

Attachments

Attachment A. Draft Markets Policy (additions in ***bold italics***, deletions in ~~strikethrough~~)

Background

1. On 29 June 2015, Council adopted a Markets Policy with the purpose of providing a standard approach to the approval of markets. The Policy also provides an assessment framework for the City to approve ongoing markets.
2. The Markets Policy was developed to set an assessment framework, respond to the relevant key directions in Sustainable Sydney 2030, encapsulate legislative requirements and incorporate non-statutory community consultation into the market application process.
3. The Policy is due for review. Minor amendments have been made to update the Policy and enhance ease of use. These amendments do not alter the intent of the Policy.
4. The Policy provides the City with:
 - (a) guiding principles and decision making criteria for assessing market proposals;
 - (b) strategies to minimise or eliminate any adverse impact of markets on the local community and to maximise overall community benefit;
 - (c) a step-by-step guide for setting up market; and
 - (d) processes for consulting the community about market proposals.
5. The proposed amendments are as follows:
 - (a) Deletion of reference to the Markets Panel. This reference has been deleted as the Markets Panel has never been constituted. Sufficient expertise resides within the Venue Management Unit to enable assessments to occur.
 - (b) Deletion of reference to the Site Suitability Checklist. . The Site Suitability Checklist is an internal tool used by the Venue Management Unit to assess market applications and as such does not require reference in the Markets Policy.
 - (c) Community Use and Participation. This section has been amended to provide greater clarity and expand the definition of 'community use' for greater flexibility.

Benefits of Markets

6. Markets can improve access to quality food and produce, improve social interaction, and provide opportunities for innovative ideas and businesses to develop.

Key Implications

Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030 Vision

7. Sustainable Sydney 2030 is a vision for the sustainable development of the City to 2030 and beyond. It includes 10 strategic directions to guide the future of the City, as well as 10 targets against which to measure progress. This policy is aligned with the following strategic directions and objectives:
 - (a) Direction 1 – A Globally Competitive and Innovative City – Strategic direction 1.3 states: The city economy is an integrated network of sectors, markets, and high performing clusters. Reviewing the Markets Policy ensures that it is kept up to date to facilitate this.
 - (b) Direction 6 - Vibrant Local Communities and Economies - Strategic direction 6.1 refers to a 'city of villages' - for communities to live, meet, shop, study, create, play, discover, learn and work. Strategic direction 6.3 indicates that local economies meet the needs of their community, and provide opportunities for people to realise their potential. The Market Policy addresses both these directions.
 - (c) Direction 7 - A Cultural and Creative City – as a gathering place for the local community, markets can bring together demographically, economically and culturally diverse communities. Markets foster interaction and cohesion by connecting communities over food, children and cultural diversity. Markets also help build a shared sense of identity.

Budget Implications

8. Implementation of the amendments to the Policy will have no significant budget implications.
9. The City's Fees and Charges Schedule includes fees for markets. Commercial Market Operators pay a commercial fee. Not-for-profit organisations are offered a lower fee structure.

Relevant Legislation

10. Local Government Act 1993.
11. Crown Land Management Act 2016.
12. Roads Act 1993.
13. Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.
14. Disability Discrimination Act 1992.
15. Food Act 2003.
16. Protection of Environmental Operations Act 1997.
17. Sydney Local Environment Plan 2012.

Public Consultation

18. The draft Markets Policy will be put on public exhibition for a period of 14 days.

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