



ABANDONED VEHICLES POLICY

Adopted by Council 8 May 2024
(2024/076)

POLICY OBJECTIVES

Ensure the efficient removal of abandoned vehicles from public places within the Narromine Shire.

Ensure that impoundment of abandoned motor vehicles is undertaken in accordance with the Public Spaces (Unattended Property) Act 2021 and the relevant regulations.

DEFINITIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS POLICY

Vehicle – motor vehicle, boat trailer, other trailer, and caravan

Abandoned vehicle – Registered, unregistered, or registered but cannot be legally driven due to its physical condition and has been in the same place for too long, or is interfering with amenity, or is obstructing access or posing a safety risk.

Public place – footpaths, streets, parks, road reserves, and other public spaces

POLICY STATEMENT

1. A Council Officer will make all reasonable inquiries to find out the name and address of the owner of a vehicle before the officer impounds the vehicle. Unless the vehicle is causing an unacceptable safety risk or is directly obstructing entry or exit to a property in which case this is the only situation the vehicle can be impounded immediately.
2. If the Council officer's inquiries fail to reveal the name and address of the owner, the officer will proceed to impound the vehicle after 3 days' notice is given.
3. If the Council officer's inquiries do reveal the name and address of the owner, the officer will not impound the vehicle until notice of the proposed impounding has been given to the owner, being a minimum of 15 days.
4. The notice will be in writing addressed to the owner and indicate that the vehicle will be impounded unless it is removed within a specified period (not less than 3 days) and will be destroyed if its value is less than \$1,500 as per Section 31 of the Act.
5. If the value of the abandoned vehicle is greater than \$1,500, the vehicle will be offered for sale by way of a public tender process as defined within this policy.

Sale of Motor Vehicle

This section of the policy is only applicable where the value of the motor vehicle is greater than \$1500, when taking into consideration Section 32 of the Public Spaces (Unattended Property) Act 2021.

1. The Council Officer will seek approval from their immediate supervisor or manager to dispose of the vehicle.
2. On receipt of approval for sale, a public notice (**Appendix A**) will be published advertising the vehicle for sale.

3. All tenders/quotations received will be collated and presented to the impounding officer's immediate supervisor or manager with a recommendation.
4. On approval by the General Manager the vehicle will be sold to the successful tenderer.

Policy Version Control

Policy Owner	Director Governance	
Date of Adoption/ Amendment	Revision Number	Council Resolution No.
15 September 2009		2009/372
14 May 2014	1	2014/139
11 July 2018	2	2018/151
8 May 2024	3	2024/076

Appendix A – Public Notice Template

Public Notice – Sale of Impounded Vehicle

Narromine Shire Council hereby places the following motor vehicle/s for sale by way of public tender. Clause 32 of the Public Spaces (Unattended Property) Act 2021 allows for Council to recover costs incurred as a result of impounding the vehicle/s.

(Make, Model, Year, Colour)

Closing date:

Please note that Council is looking at recovering the cost occurred and will therefore consider all fair and reasonable tenders.

Inspection of the vehicle in question can be arranged by contacting Council on 02 6889 9999.

All tenders are to be addressed to the General Manager, Narromine Shire Council. PO Box 115 Narromine NSW 2821 or emailed to mail@narromine.nsw.gov.au.