

Guidelines to Consider Approval of Car Park Closures during Night Time Hours.

Policy Owner: City Businesses Directorate
Distribution: Elected members and employees
Date Approved: 27 July 2010, CB02-07/10

1. Objective

- To provide a clear framework and process to be followed for consideration of requests to close car parks during night time hours.
- To assist in the allocation of Council resources appropriately in any decisions to close car parks during night time hours.
- To link appropriately to the City of Wanneroo community consultation and engagement policy.

2. Policy Statement

This Policy is designed to provide a framework for assessing the requirement to close and City car park to prevent criminal and anti-social behaviour from occurring or significantly reduce the opportunity for this activity to occur.

3. Guidelines

The following principles will underpin the process in determining any request for a car park to be closed during night time hours.

3.1 *Anti-social Behaviour*

The antisocial behaviour that the car park closure is being considered to respond to is ongoing, serious, and impacting on residents in the area.

3.2 *Public Access*

The importance of the public being able to access public spaces for legitimate purposes will be balanced against the potential gains from closing the car park during night time hours.

3.3 *Community Benefit*

There is a general consensus between the City of Wanneroo and the community that the closure is important, and will have benefits to the community for it to proceed.

3.4 *Crime Prevention Impact*

Consideration will be given to the principles of Crime Prevention through Environmental Management as closure of car parks in some areas may have an unintended impact of increasing antisocial behaviour.

4. Application

These guidelines will apply to all requested car park closures during night-time hours on a long-term basis (either permanent or on a trial basis) to address anti-social behaviour. This policy does not apply to other car park closures such as for engineering works, maintenance, or other Council requirements. Applications can be made by Councillors, Residents or Crime Prevention partners such as Police.

5. Procedures and Forms

Reasons for antisocial behaviour occurring in an area can be complex and may not be linked to a car park being open during night time hours. There may also be other considerations such as any closure during night-time hours may limit natural surveillance from other users, and increase the problem, or the problem may be seasonal, and require a flexible approach.

These guidelines are to be considered in response to resident requests to close car parks during night time hours as a result of ongoing and regular antisocial behaviour which may be reduced by closing the car park during night time hours, such as antisocial driver behaviour.

When a resident requests a car park be considered for closure the following steps are to be followed:

1. Information from the City's records, and Police statistics relating to occurrences in the car park will be accessed, and assessed. This will include information on the type of anti-social behaviour occurring and the approximate times that it is occurring. A site inspection will also be conducted.
2. If it is determined by Administration that there is insufficient evidence to demonstrate that there is a problem in the area, the next step will be for the car park to be monitored appropriately for six months and then the request will be revisited. This may occur in a variety of ways, and options considered may include one or more of the following ways: Ranger, Community Safety Patrol or Police patrolling, short term CCTV installation or Youth Outreach attendance. Residents will be advised that the car park will be monitored appropriately for six-months, and will be requested to report any issues as they occur to Police or Rangers, Safety and Emergency Management Services for an appropriate response.
3. If there is a demonstrated problem in the area, and it is determined that the nature, time and type of antisocial behaviour may be assisted by the closure of the car park during night time hours, the request will be referred to other internal service units for comment, including Program Services, Infrastructure Maintenance, and Capacity Building. (Previously Leisure and Cultural Services, Infrastructure Maintenance and Community Services note this bracketed line needs to come out)

4. An appropriate community consultation will be conducted with surrounding residents and user groups of the facility, linking in with the City of Wanneroo Community Consultation Policy. Information on the use of the area will be used to determine the likely impact of the closure on the community, and the appropriate level of consultation. Consideration will be given to any leisure uses which may be impacted upon by the car park closure (for example the closure of a car park in a coastal reserve area, or at a community facility).

5. The results of the consultation will be reported to Council and a determination will be made on the request to close the car park during night time hours. Consideration will also be given to the allocation of council resources in closing the car park during night time hours, such as closure of the car park by Rangers, and opening of the car park by a local caretaker. Council has sole discretion in the final determination of the closure of any car park during night time hours.

6. Council is able to close local public car parks within its boundaries by resolution, and approve a change to the City of Wanneroo Parking and Parking Facilities Local Law 2003 specifying that vehicles will not be permitted into a car park for specific times.

Responsibility for Implementation

Director City Businesses

Versions	Next Review	Record No:
24 April 2007 – CD07-04/07		
27 July 2010 – CB02-07/10	July 2012	10/22138