

Understanding Licence Term and Fees



The Shire thanks Community Members for Their Feedback on the Draft Bathing Box Policy to Date

Council appreciates the time and effort interested parties have already taken to review and provide feedback on the draft Bathing Box Policy.

Through this initial consultation, Council has heard that the key areas of community interest relate to tenure and fees.

The following information is provided to clarify these matters.

Licence Term

Bathing box owners currently do not hold any formal agreement with Council for the occupation of their bathing box on public land. There is a common misconception that bathing box owners have a 99-year lease/licence with Council; however, no such arrangement exists.

Under the current arrangement, owners receive an annual rates notice that includes both Council rates and the bathing box licence fee. There is no formal documentation attached with that notice.

The draft Bathing Box Policy is the first step towards establishing clear rights and responsibilities for bathing box owners, including the introduction of a formal licence agreement for the occupation of a bathing box on Council owned or managed land.

Under the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978*, licences relating to Crown land are limited to a maximum term of 10 years. The draft licence therefore proposes a 10 year term, which is the longest tenure currently permitted for bathing boxes under State legislation.

To provide greater certainty and continuity for bathing box owners, the draft licence includes a first right of refusal. This means that, at the end of the initial 10 year term, the licensee will have the opportunity to apply for a further licence, subject to Council approval and any legislative requirements in force at that time.

Fees

Bathing box owners currently receive an annual rates notice that includes both Council rates and the applicable bathing box licence fee.

As with other Council fees and charges, bathing box fees are reviewed annually through Council's budget process.

For the 2026/27 financial year, the annual licence fee and transfer will increase by 3.2% in accordance with Council's adopted Fees and Charges Schedule.