

# *Busking at The Rocks & Circular Quay*

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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

September 2009

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### **Introduction**

The Authority recognises that Sydney has a strong tradition of busking and that buskers contribute to a sense of place in the public area. The Authority aims to encourage activity that contributes colour and life within its precincts while attempting to work with buskers in order to minimise complaints, criticism and other problems associated with buskers operating in the public area, while supporting the rights of individuals to express themselves.

As Landowner, the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority is responsible for all aspects of busking in The Rocks & Circular Quay. The Rocks & Circular Quay Busking Policy provides a framework to enable busking activities to be undertaken within the precinct in a manner that realises the benefits of busking in the public area, while regulating the conduct of busking in order to address stakeholder concerns.

## **1. THE PERMIT AND THE POLICY**

### **1.1 How do I obtain a busking permit for The Rocks & Circular Quay?**

Buskers must apply for a Busking Permit by contacting the Place Manager (Operations) who is in charge of issuing the Busking Permits.

When submitting an application, buskers must provide the following:

- A completed busking application form (available from our website).
- A current City of Sydney busking permit (only required if performing using dangerous equipment i.e.: fire, knives etc).
- Current Public Liability Insurance Certificate of \$10 million showing the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority as an interested party.
- Proof of identification (driver's license, passport or proof of age card)
- Proof of a work visa for those who are not residents of Australia (please see your subclass to ascertain if permitted to work)
- Parental consent form (if under 18 years of age)
- A recent passport size photo which will be affixed to the permit.

Busking application appointments may be made during the hours of 10am and 3pm, Please contact the Place Manager (Operations) on 02 9240 8747 to schedule an appointment.

An administration fee of \$20.00 is payable upon application.

### **1.2 What categories of busking are there within The Rocks & Circular Quay?**

There are 3 different categories of busking activity permitted at defined pitches across the precinct. These pitches are shown on the plan Appendix B on page 14 of the Busking Policy. The categories of busking are as follows:

#### Circle Acts:

Defined as structured performances requiring the audience to stop and watch or participate in the performance. Approximate duration 20-40 minutes. Approved locations for Circle Acts are busking pitches: 10 and 12 only.



Circle Act sites are suitable for Special Busking Permits where the performance may involve the use of dangerous material and/or implements. The Authority will only grant a special busking permit if the applicant is a current City of Sydney special busking permit holder.

#### Walk By Acts (WBA):

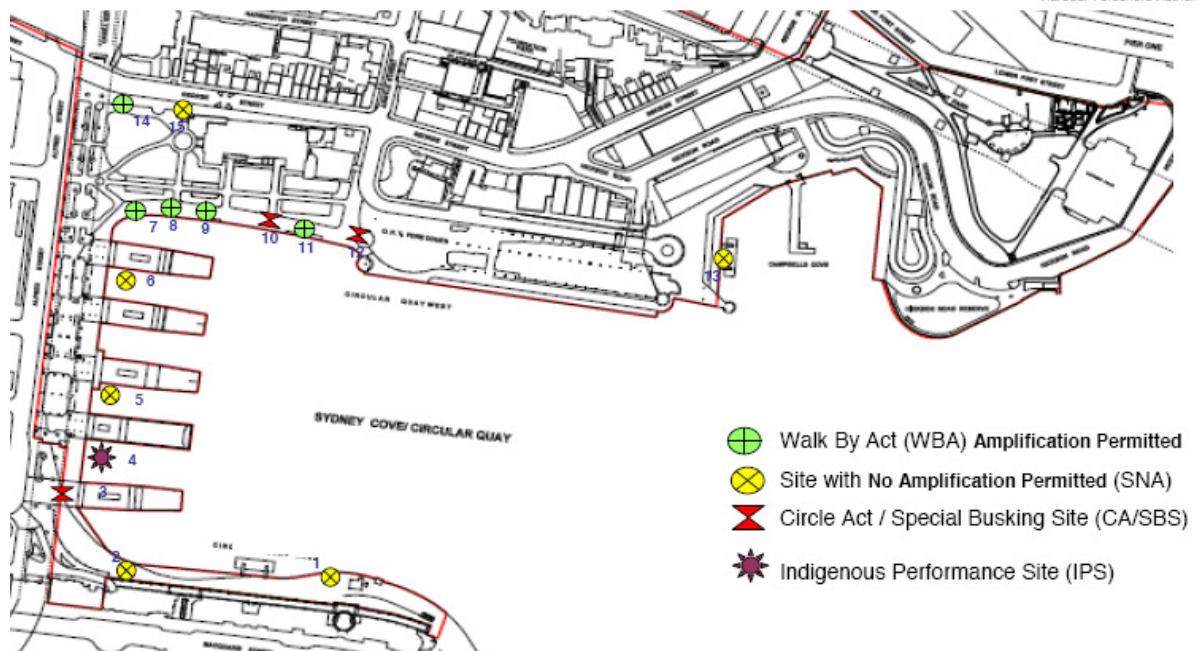
Spontaneous performances where the audience is not required to stop and watch. Approved locations for Walk By Acts are busking pitches: 1-15 inclusive. It should be noted that some of these pitches do not permit the use of amplification-refer to plan below.

#### Site with no amplification (SNA):

Generally a single person act for narrow or congested pedestrian traffic areas where a pitch is deemed to have a significant environmental impact. Notwithstanding, all pitches 1-15 inclusive can be utilised with no amplification.

The following map highlights the approved busking pitches under the Authority's policy (please refer to Appendix B of the policy).

Busking Policy  
Appendix B - The Rocks & Circular Quay – Approved Busking Pitches



### **1.3 Why is there a two hour time limit on each busking pitch?**

The Authority encourages buskers to consider their operating environment and the impact each busking activity has on its immediate surrounds. In order to promote a variety of artistic expression as well as avoid repetitive activity, the Authority imposes a two hour period on all busking pitches.

### **1.4 How long does it take to obtain a permit?**

A permit is issued on the spot conditional to buskers providing all documentation mentioned in point 1.1.

### **1.5 Can a busker book or reserve a busking pitch?**



Level 4, 12-26 Playfair Street  
THE ROCKS NSW 2000  
Phone: 02 9240 8747  
Email: [info@shfa.nsw.gov.au](mailto:info@shfa.nsw.gov.au)  
Website: [www.shfa.nsw.gov.au](http://www.shfa.nsw.gov.au)

Pitches are not permitted to be booked or reserved. Buskers are permitted to operate in areas covered by the policy between the hours of 8:00am and 9:00pm. The Authority imposes a two hour period on all busking pitches. If buskers are prepared to do so, they are permitted to wait at an occupied pitch until the current busker's two hours expires, at which time there should be a changeover of performer.

### **1.6 Can buskers sell CD's and display signage?**

Buskers can only sell CD's of their own music and advertise the sale of their CD's by way of one A4 size sign. Buskers are permitted to display one recording of their CD only. The sale of any other merchandise, multiple CD's or other performers CD's is prohibited. This condition is incorporated in The Rocks and Circular Quay Busking Policy.

### **1.7 Is there a noise limit on busking?**

Buskers must perform within acceptable volume levels whether amplified or not. These levels are to be such so as not to inconvenience the public or day to day operations of adjoining businesses. Please refer to the Busking Policy for further information.

### **1.8 Can buskers use umbrellas or other types of shade during their performance?**

No umbrellas or other types of shade structures are permitted on any of the Foreshore Authority pitches.

### **1.9 Is a busker permitted to busk at Darling Harbour if he/she has a permit for The Rocks & Circular Quay?**

This policy does not apply to Darling Harbour. Buskers wishing to operate at Darling Harbour must be authorised to do so via the Authority's Darling Harbour Busking Policy. Further information on both The Rocks & Circular Quay Busking Policy and the Darling Harbour Busking Policy is available at [www.shfa.nsw.gov.au](http://www.shfa.nsw.gov.au).

## **2. COMPLIANCE**

### **2.1 How much can I be fined by an infringement?**

Fines issued for an infringement will be subject to a minimum fine of \$220.

### **2.2 How can I appeal or challenge an infringement?**

On the spot infringements may be appealed by electing to take the matter to court.

### **2.3 What if I have any questions or concerns?**

If you have any questions regarding the Authority's busking policy, please contact:

Place Manager (Operations)  
Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority  
Phone: 02 9240 8747  
Email: [info@shfa.nsw.gov.au](mailto:info@shfa.nsw.gov.au)

