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16 December 2022

**Council progresses targeted local laws review**

Surf Coast Shire Council will trial domestic use of tiny houses on wheels following a targeted review of parts of its Community Amenity Local Law 2021.

Council resolved at its December meeting to support a trial to better understand complex issues surrounding use of tiny houses on wheels before reaching a formal local law position.

A proposed two-year trial will allow further community consultation, development of criteria and an application, permit and monitoring process, assessment of impact on Council resources and provide better understanding of how tiny houses on wheels might help resolve shortage of affordable housing and key worker accommodation.

Council’s Community Amenity Local Law 2021 covers a wide range of topics relating to community life, helping to preserve community order, safety, public assets and environment.

Following its adoption in December 2021 Council resolved to undertake targeted review of several parts of the law.

At its meeting on Tuesday Council noted outcomes of targeted reviews including:

* Maintaining unchanged local law relating to burning off, which is prohibited in residential areas without a permit other than between 10am and 3pm on Wednesdays and Saturdays.
* Maintaining unchanged local law relating to support for key worker accommodation, permitting up to four seasonal workers to stay in caravans or tents at residential addresses for up to 120 days.
* Noting that an updated policy and guidelines on use of nature strips – including alterations to nature strip surfaces, such as gravelling – will be presented to Council in 2023 for consideration for inclusion in the local law.
* Approving amendment of a clause to clarify that storage of vehicles in public places for up to seven days does not apply to nature strips as parking on nature strips is not allowed under Victorian road rules.
* Noting amendment of smoke-free areas to include use of e-cigarettes or vaping.
* Progressing a trial of domestic use of tiny houses on wheels.

Cr Libby Stapleton said the need for targeted reviews highlighted the complexity of some components of the local law.

“These targeted reviews have enabled some further fine-tuning of elements of the local law, based on feedback and learnings from internal and external workshops, community consultations, hearing of submissions and benchmarking with other councils,” Cr Stapleton said.

“We have appreciated further input from our community, following extensive initial local laws consultation during 2021.

“It is important that through the local law we help provide order with clear sets of rules across many aspects of community life, and that these reflect community expectations.”

**ENDS**

**Not for publication:**

For further information

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