



Alfresco Dining Guidelines

2026



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Introduction

We're excited to support local businesses to take advantage of alfresco dining opportunities in our town centres. Activating public spaces enhances the experience of residents and visitors, creates vibrant, welcoming town centres and showcases our fabulous local businesses and the unique character of their venues

These guidelines are designed to help local businesses safely and successfully use public spaces for alfresco dining. As these areas are shared community spaces, certain requirements apply to ensure they remain safe, accessible, and enjoyable for everyone.

The Shire's Alfresco Dining Guidelines aim to support business opportunities that:

- Create vibrant, pedestrian friendly town centres
- Enhance the experience for visitors and locals
- Support businesses to expand their offerings outdoors
- Maintain safe and accessible pathways for everyone

If your business meets the requirements outlined in these guidelines, you may not need planning approval, however **you will still need a permit to operate** under the *Shire of Augusta Margaret River Activities in Throughfares and Public Places and Trading Local Law 2020*.

These guidelines only apply to alfresco areas which operate on Shire owned or managed land, which is usually within a road reserve.

Alfresco areas that operate within privately owned land do not require a permit, but you may need a Development Approval. Contact Shire's Planning Department to discuss your plans and any approvals required.



Planning your alfresco area

When planning and designing your alfresco area on Shire land the following principles apply:

- Alfresco areas should be inclusive and consider all potential users
- Furniture should be safe, well-built and maintained to prevent deterioration or risk of injury
- Alfresco areas should be simple, attractive and complement the streetscape
- Placement of furniture should allow for unobstructed pedestrian movement

Alfresco Furniture Requirements

All alfresco furniture must:

- Be temporary (not fixed) and removed outside of trading hours
- Be located within your frontage (without further approval)
- Maintain a minimum clearance height of 2 metres for umbrellas, which must be securely in place
- Be safe, stable and clearly visible (colour contrasting with background)
- Be kept in a clean, and tidy condition at all times
- Screens/barriers defining the area are no higher than 1 metre and should be adequately secured



As alfresco areas occupy shared public space, temporary furniture must be removed overnight to maintain safe and accessible walkways, allow for cleaning and maintenance, and minimise risks such as damage, theft, or movement in adverse weather.

Accessibility Requirements

To ensure safe and accessible movement for everyone:

- A continuous 2-metre-wide accessible pathway must be maintained at all times to ensure accessible travel for everyone including those with a disability, mobility aids or prams
- Staff should always give priority to pedestrians
- Entrances to buildings must be kept clear and unobstructed
- Ensure safe movement with no trip hazards
- Ensure street furniture and public infrastructures can be easily accessed

Food Safety Requirements

- Food and beverages may only be supplied by a business registered under the *Food Act 2008*
- Food must be prepared inside your adjoining business (not outside)

Alcohol Service Requirements

- The area will require a license from Department of Racing, Gaming and Liquor
- Customers must be seated within the permit/licensed area
- Licensed alfresco areas must be defined with physical barriers

Activities Requiring Prior Approval

The following activities are not permitted under a standard Alfresco Dining Permit due to the potential risks or impacts to other users:

- Cooking or heating food outdoors
- Speakers or amplified music
- Fixed structures or installations
- Vehicles, food vans, or inflatables
- Flashing or illuminated signage
- Flooring, mats or banners

Please contact the Economic Development Team for advice to discuss additional requests and approvals will be assessed based.

Permit Area Requirements

The permit area is limited to the zone outside of your business and for ground floor businesses only.

If you would like to extend into the frontage of an adjacent property, you may apply provided that the business owner and property owner both give written consent to accompany your application.

Key Requirements

When setting up and operating your alfresco area:

- Maintain a clear, continuous straight pedestrian pathway of at least 2 metres in width
- Ensure the layout provides a safe path or travel without obstructions or protrusions
- Ensure all building exits and entry/exit to alfresco area remain unobstructed and accessible at all times
- Position kerbside furniture at least 0.5 metres from the kerb to allow for vehicle movement and passenger access
- Furniture and signage must not create a line-of-sight hazard for vehicles or pedestrians
- Ensure signage and branding is subtle and proportionate
- Product advertising is limited to products sold within the business and limited to umbrellas coasters, and placemats

Capacity Requirements

The combined indoor and outdoor patron capacity must not exceed the approved maximum occupancy for your premises (unless further approval is obtained).

Alfresco seating must not exceed 25% of your indoor seating capacity without additional approval.

As a general guide, allowable density is calculated at 1 person per square metre of alfresco area.

Please note that increasing your approved capacity may trigger the need for Development Approval, particularly in relation to parking requirements. If you are unsure, please contact the Economic Development Team for guidance.



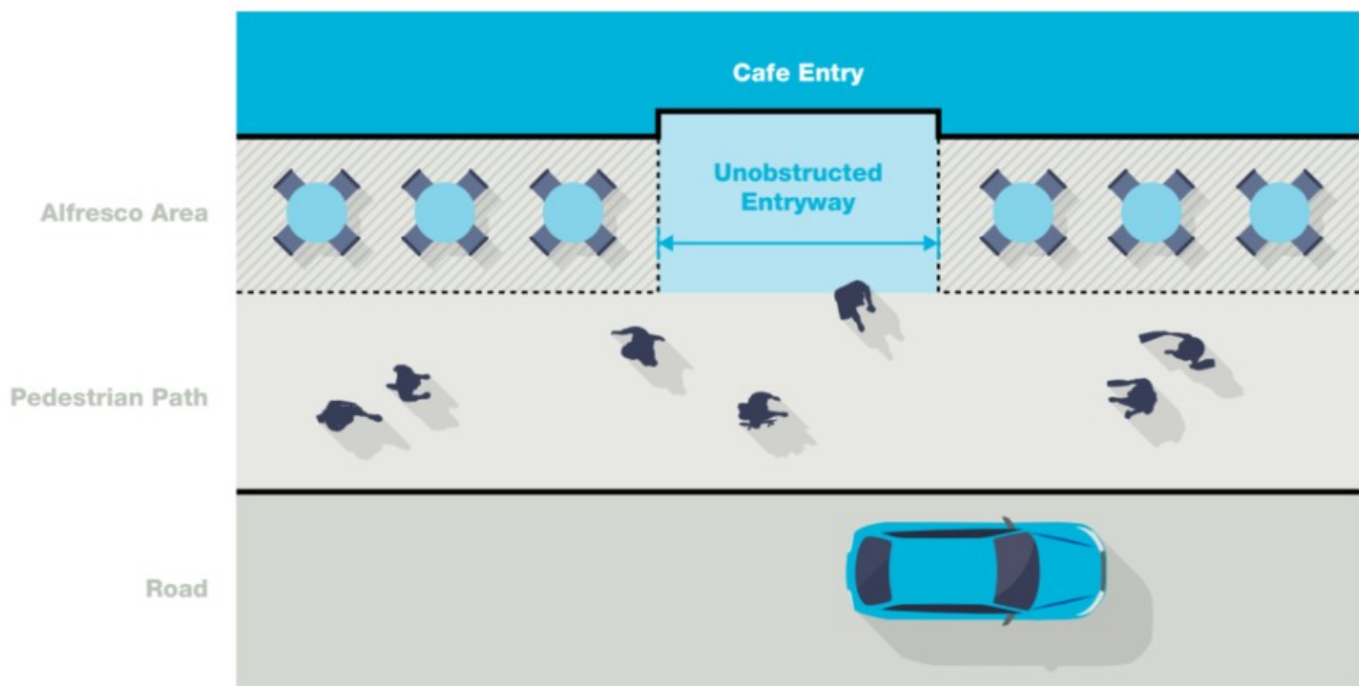
A Development Approval is a planning approval that assesses how a proposal may impact its surroundings. It may be required for more complex alfresco dining setups, such as increased capacities or larger areas, to ensure they are safe, appropriate, and fit within the streetscape.

Insurance and Maintenance

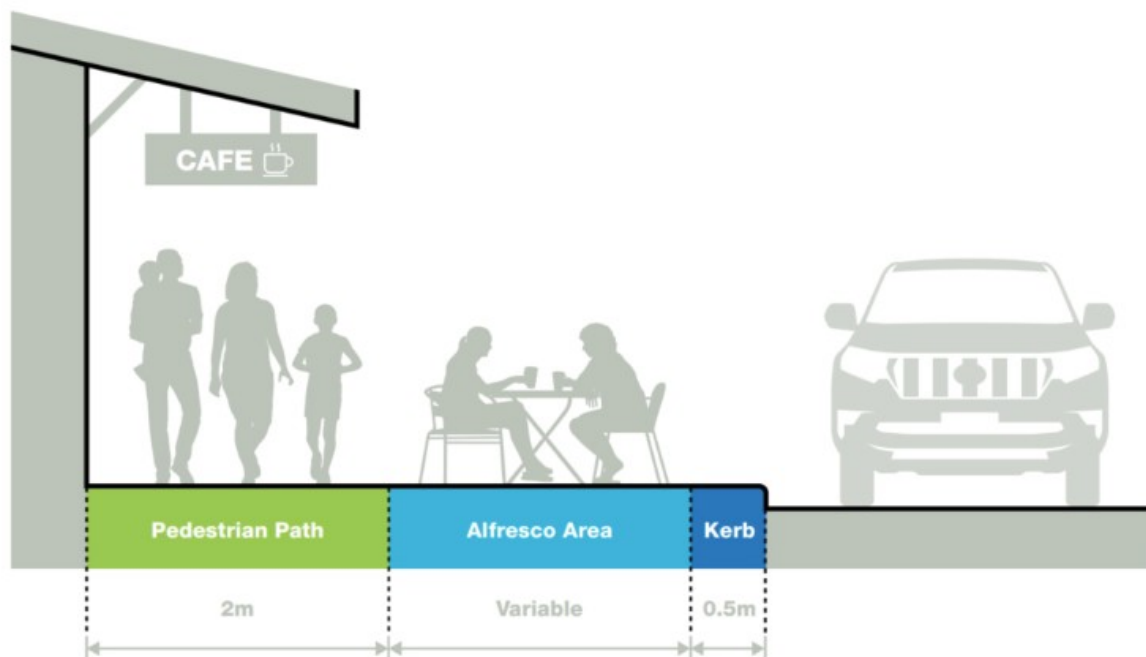
Public Liability Insurance covering the alfresco area is required for a minimum of \$20 million.

Permit holders are responsible for maintaining the cleanliness and condition of the area.

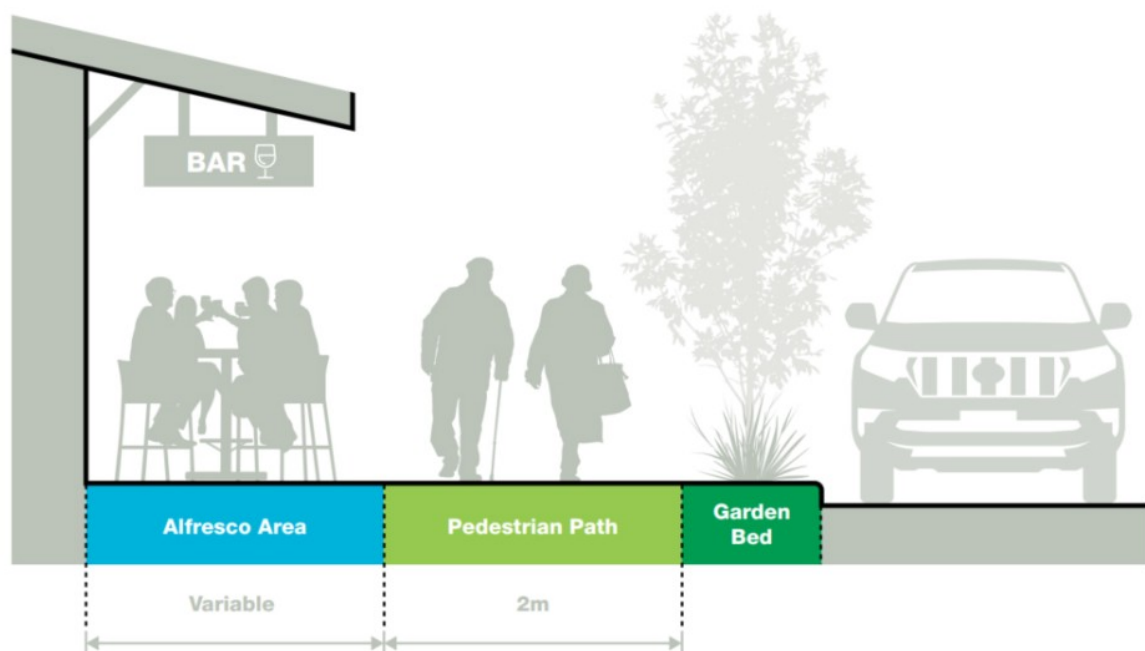
Any damage to public infrastructure resulting from your use must be repaired at your own cost.



Example kerbside alfresco area



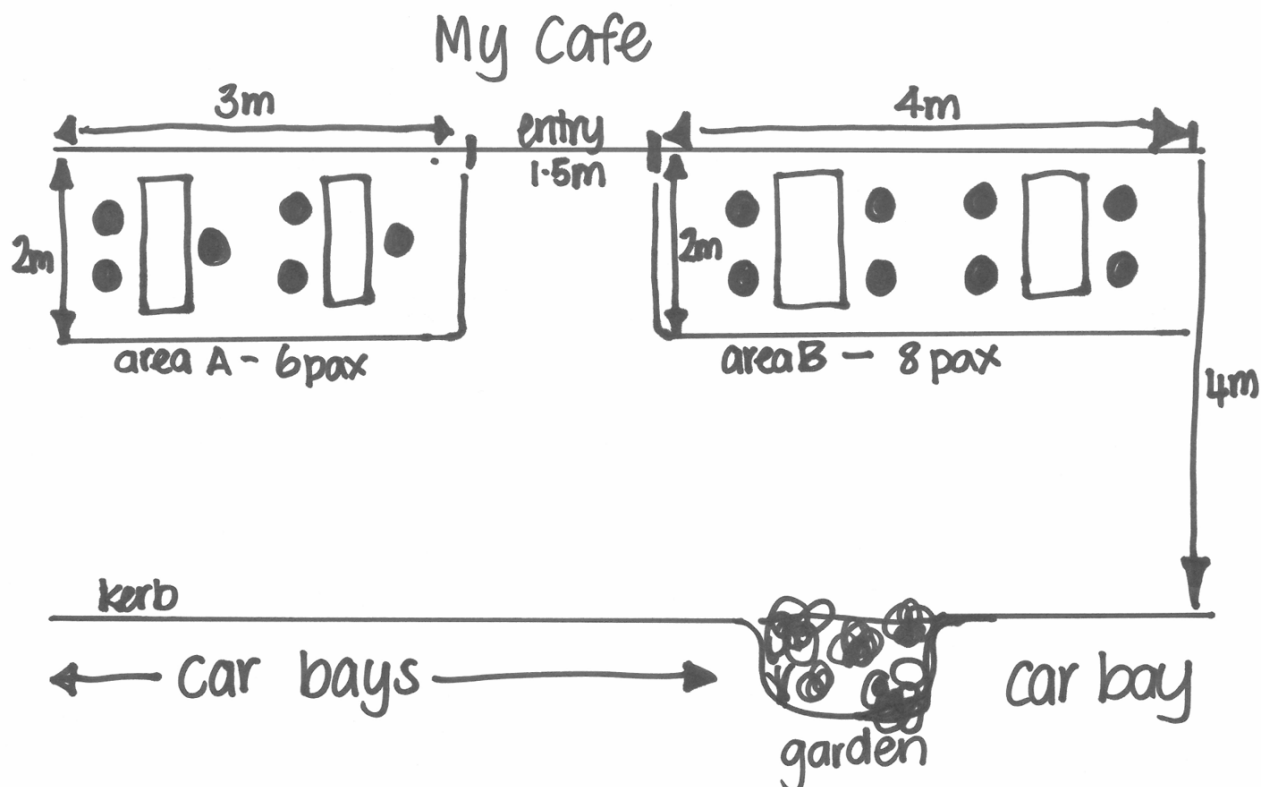
Example business side alfresco area



Application Process

How to Apply

1. Complete the online application form on the Shire website here [Alfresco Dining, Product Display and A-Frame Signs | Shire of Augusta Margaret River](#).
2. Upload a site plan showing your business location, footpath, tables and chairs, any other items such as pot plants, kerb and road/car parks, and setback distances (e.g. between kerb and edge of tables) clearly labelled. (example below)
3. Proof of up-to-date Public Liability Insurance for a minimum value of \$20 Million.
4. Once your application is submitted and you agree to comply with the standard terms and conditions you will receive a temporary permit so you can begin operating while we process your application, which is typically completed within 14 days.
5. If you wish to vary from the guidelines, your application may take longer to process, or a Development Application may be required.
6. Note that alcohol service will require separate approval from the Department of Racing Gaming and Liquor.



Fees and Charges

There are currently no application or permit fees for alfresco permits, making it easier for local businesses to activate outdoor spaces and enhance our town centres.

This does not apply to penalties for non-compliance or damage/cleaning associated with the permit area.

Permit renewals

Existing permit holders are required to contact the Shire prior to the end of their permit period to confirm details for renewal. If there are no changes to operations and permit conditions have been met, permits will be renewed.

Change of ownership

If a business with an existing alfresco dining permit changes ownership, the new proprietor is responsible for submitting an application noting the change in ownership. A new permit will be issued to the new owners if the application is in compliance with these guidelines. The new proprietor must also ensure their Food Business registration has been updated.

Contact us

These guidelines are here to support you in creating vibrant, attractive spaces while ensuring our streets remain safe, inclusive and accessible for all.

If you're unsure about any requirements or would like assistance, we are here to help, please feel welcome to contact the Economic Development Team for further guidance early in your planning.

Email: permits@amrshire.wa.gov.au

Phone: 9780 526

For Development Approval advice:

Email: planning@amrshire.wa.gov.au

Phone 9780 5220