

**POLICY NAME:** WEDDINGS ON PUBLIC LAND  
**POLICY REF:** W03  
**MEETING ADOPTED:** 24 April 2024  
Resolution No. 240424/11  
**POLICY HISTORY:** 270220/37; 240316/28; 220911/24;  
131207/21



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## 1 OBJECTIVE

The objectives of this policy are:

- a) to ensure that [public land](#) in Ballina Shire is retained for passive and active recreation for residents and visitors; and
- b) to enable the use of public land in Ballina Shire for wedding ceremonies, and to provide some certainty of availability of selected sites.

## 2 POLICY

- a) A online [application](#) is required to advise Council of the intention to conduct a wedding in a public place. The holder of the approval from Council will have priority of use of an area should another person wish to use the same location at the same time.
- b) The application should include a wedding date and time, duration of the ceremony, location (pin drop location required as part of application), proposed use of amplified music, number of wedding guests and any equipment such as chairs and small domestic-scale shade structures.
- c) A maximum period of two hours is allowed for the ceremony and photographs.
- d) [Council's schedule of fees and charges](#) will prescribe the application fee required for all applications.
- e) Approval to conduct a wedding on public land does not provide exclusive use of the area, nor does it obligate Council to carry out any works in preparation for the wedding. Council does not mow conservation areas of beaches and headlands, nor does it give permission for mowing as endangered grasses and other threatened species grow in these areas.
- f) Should the applicant wish to erect a marquee or hold a reception on public land, the applicant would need to complete an [Application for Events on Public Land](#) form in accordance with Council's [Events on Public Land policy](#), and the event would be subject to the applicable fees. It is unlikely, however, that approval would be granted for such an event on beaches, headlands or in coastal reserves because such activities are not permitted under the [Ballina Coastal Reserve Plan of Management](#).
- g) Locations are provided on the Council webpage and will be updated at the discretion of Council should an area become unavailable temporarily due to works or unforeseen circumstances. Council will be obligated to communicate any changes to applicants.

### **Prohibited activities**

The following activities are prohibited as part any wedding application made to Council:

- a) Council prohibits the use, supply or release of any balloons where all or part of the wedding occurs outside.
- b) The release of fireworks is not granted under any wedding approvals issued.

### **3 BACKGROUND**

Conducting wedding ceremonies in parks and on beaches and headlands managed by Council is a popular option for many people. These ceremonies can be large, and the very nature of the ceremony can impact on the use of public reserves by other people.

The intent of this policy is to enable wedding ceremonies to take place on public land and provide some certainty of availability of selected sites, while at the same time manage the impact on the general public.

### **4 DEFINITIONS**

<b>Council</b>	Ballina Shire Council
<b>Public land</b>	Land under the ownership or care and control of Council

### **5 SCOPE OF POLICY**

This policy applies to:

- a) Council employees
- b) Councillors
- c) Community members
- d) Wedding businesses.

### **6 RELATED DOCUMENTATION**

Related documents, policies and legislation:

- a) [Events on Public Land policy](#)
- b) [Application for Events on Public Land](#)
- c) [Ballina Coastal Reserve Plan of Management](#)
- d) [Adopted Fees and Charges](#).

### **7 REVIEW**

The Weddings on Public Land policy will be reviewed at least every four years.