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INDEPENDENT

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SURVEY RESULTS

Your thoughts on Paid Parking in Kiama

Survey period: early March - early April 2022

Setting the scene for this survey.

During the 2021 Kiama Council election campaign, many local businesses told me that parking was a major problem for them.

With inadequate parking infrastructure in the central business districts of Kiama and Gerringong, business owners and workers are forced to move their cars every couple of hours or face mounting multiple parking fines. The problem is amplified in peak holiday periods. Ratepayers in the community also highlighted that their rates were subsidising the cost of maintaining visitor infrastructure.

Would a well thought out paid parking policy allow Council to address these issues, if the impact on residents and businesses could be minimised by the introduction of permit parking schemes?

Pros

- Revenue will enable Kiama Council to more fairly manage the cost of tourism infrastructure
- Significant additional source of revenue for Council (for example [Byron Bay Council generated more than \\$11 million](#) - after operating costs - over the last four financial years to 30 June 2020, an average of \$2.8 million a year).
- Additional revenue could be used to fund parking infrastructure upgrades more broadly
- Ratepayers will not be subsidising visitor infrastructure thus avoiding further rate increases

Cons

- Some disruption to central business districts while paid parking infrastructure is introduced
- Up front costs and additional work for Council staff to implement a paid parking scheme
- A small overhead (time and application fee) for residents and businesses to apply for permits.

Survey Results Summary

1. Do you support Kiama Council introducing paid parking in Kiama, Gerringong central business districts providing that residents and business permits are available?

(total 144)

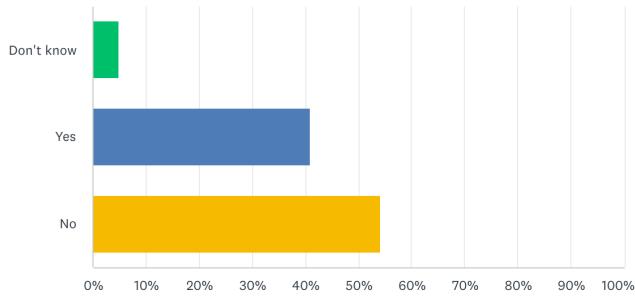
Yes 59

No 78

Don't know 7

Do you support Kiama Council introducing paid parking in Kiama, Gerringong central business districts providing that residents and business permits are available?

Answered: 144 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	▼	RESPONSES	▼
▼ Don't know		4.86%	7
▼ Yes		40.97%	59
▼ No		54.17%	78
TOTAL			144

2. Should a paid parking scheme be introduced in areas of high traffic during peak holiday season? For example beach car parks or attractions like Blowhole Point

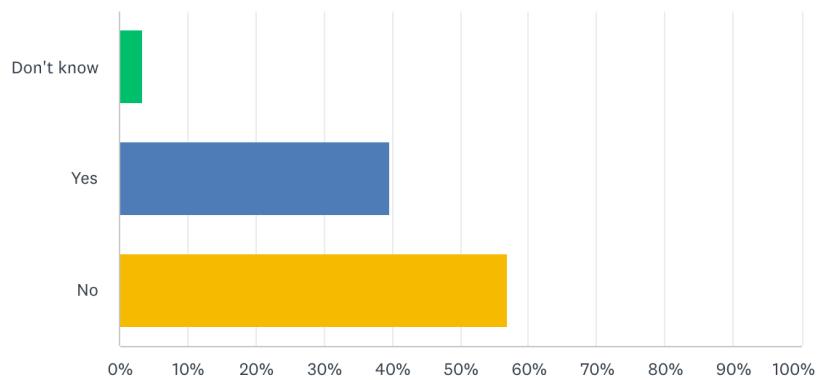
Yes 57

No 82

Don't know 2

Should a paid parking scheme be introduced in areas of high traffic during peak holiday season? For example beach car parks or attractions like Blowhole Point

Answered: 144 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	▼	RESPONSES	▼
▼ Don't know		3.47%	5
▼ Yes		39.58%	57
▼ No		56.94%	82
TOTAL			144

3. Please add any comments

Total number of comments - 94

Summary follows.

Mostly positive Yes comments ie charge visitors & locals free

Many people just want more parking!

Many questions seem to have been misinterpreted.

**(32) YES to have paid parking for visitors but not for workers, locals & ratepayers/Residents exempt...but be sensible. Permits for locals ok.
Supportive remarks.**

Paid parking but rate payers have stickers as in other local government areas.

Paid parking during peak holiday times, in precincts such as the blow hole, maybe an approach, however this may potentially impact business for both Diggies & the visitors centre (if less than 2hrs were metered).

Would need to still have free parking for ratepayers

Parking fees for tourists only. Its already hard enough for locals to get a parking spot during the holiday season.

Absolutely, other councils like Mosman do this very effectively with resident and business permits!

Yes yes and yes. Also the monies generated from this should be put back into improving car parks throughout the LGA. Please add paid parking in those streets that have a high number of short term rentals.

Strongly believe it is worthwhile so that visitors contribute to costs incurred by their visit (cleaning of facilities, waste disposal, gardening etc) I live in kiama & get no personal value from having tourists here (ie don't have a business reliant on tourism) & I hate that my rates are spent on cleaning up after them.

As long as parking for residents is free (subject to timed parking zones) then great, I think visitors & tourists during peak seasons should definitely pay.

It should be free for rate payers.

Would reduce the need to consistently increase our rates every year

I agree with paid parking during holiday season...

Residents should not have to pay for parking. Residents should be able to register the number plate of their car and modern parking systems use number plate recognition to manage payments.

Infrastructure requirement unable to meet expectation now. **Paid parking commonplace will not deter tourists.** Example of such parking Blue Mountains.*don't plan revenue on parking income.

Paid parking along Terralong St & near all the cafes. Might help clear congestion & traffic flow.

As long as residents are issued with free parking permits with extended hours in all areas where paid parking would be e.g. town centre, beach car parks, blowhole point etc.

Parking is critical. The town is losing the local shoppers. I shop elsewhere because it **easier to drive out of town than find a parking spot.** Maybe a **fee for visitors** but **local ratepayers should be free.** (If they can find a parking spot)

All locals residents should have an exemption

LGA Kiama residents should be exempt from paid parking

LGA Residents should be exempt. Businesses in CBDs could apply for permits for employees?

Important that local residents can get exemption stickers.

Parking fees for visitors is fine, **BUT**, it has to be fair and considerate. No use having limited parking times near cafes and restaurants in peak times when customers need to be at the venue for longer periods just to get fed. Nothing worse than sitting down to eat then having to move the car half way through your meal.

I support paid parking in the Kiama LGA only if residents are exempt.

At any given time I have 6 staff working for me, would they be granted a parking permit or just the prime business owner, if they are not, fines and parking fees make it unviable for staff to work

No charges for locals. Parking is major issue.

Residents and businesses should pay as well. Why make them exempt.

Not sure what resident & business permits entail, I think this needs to be clarified. I am a resident & do not want to pay for parking

Residents should be given permits at a small cost per year

Build another multi storey paid car park on high side of Akuna Street with permits to residents. It doesn't worry me too much to have metered car parking in the business district to raise revenue BUT the **residents must have free parking**.

The Blowhole is heavily utilised for parking weekends and holidays, definitely a potential source of income for Council

It's incredibly hard for workers like myself to find somewhere to park that doesn't involve me needing to move my car every 2-4 hours, being able to **apply for a permit** at a small fee allowing easier access to parking near work all week without the fear of multiple fines when I can't get out of work to move my car **would be great**

Workers should not be parking close to their own shops. How do they expect their customers to park? **Paid parking will fix this.** Look at Wollongong. Now that parking costs money it is actually possible to park and do some shopping in town. Often it is the businesses' own staff that take all the close parking spots. Perhaps some dedicated car parks for workers would help too. **And of course council needs to stop approving new buildings that don't have adequate surrounding parking spots.**

With reference to how No 2 question is phrased - an edit should be "paid parking providing residents have permits available". Then my vote would change to a "yes". attractions.

(8) Let's not upset or deter visitors by having paid parking!

Making people pay for parking is not going to provide more spaces especially in the short term. Do permits mean business/residents can take up prime parking with no time limit thus **pushing out holiday makers?**

Paid parking would change the friendly look and feel of the area and help to take away the relaxed lifestyle Kiama gives.

[Paid parking] wouldn't do that as tourists will still park there, they'll just have to pay for it. **I would hate to drive tourists away**, the towns are thriving thanks to them.

Rate payers should be exempted. Parking meter will discourage visitors and tourist. We need them. We don't want a reputation like Shellharbour or Byron bay.

When I visit places that have paid parking I find it a major turn off and end up staying, dinning and shopping away from the area.

This will drive tourism away from Kiama if it's expensive to visit

Angle Parking along the Main Street (s) in town is the issue that causes traffic issues. That is where paid parking would be implemented. **Not the beaches or tourist attractions. Anything else is a money grab.** Resident / business passes should be limited to 1 hour to eliminate privilege abuse.

We also need to remember, Kiama businesses want the tourist dollar, a price to pay for that is local residents have to tolerate less parking spaces for them and the inconveniences that brings.

(15) Nope, Bad idea, not having it. No paid parking in Kiama !

I do not support any form of paid parking (outside of designated parking stations) in the municipality.

I am strongly opposed to paid parking. We are a coastal town and it's what sets us aside from the metropolitan areas. No

No paid parking and NO TRAFFIC LIGHTS!!!

Kiama is a beautiful sacred small town **do not implement parking metres** it takes away from its simplicity, absolutely ludicrous. If anything, stop building so many apartments and cramming people into Kiama without thinking of the tiny access there is through Kiama Main Street? Metres wouldn't stop it, it would get so much worse as everyone's already like a seagull on a chip for a park.

Paid parking is not an option. Just revenue raising and filing the councils bank

We pay enough to live here already. Leave us alone.

No to any paid parking. Infrastructure has never kept up with demand. Multi level car parks are required with special section for business owners to park. Multi level at Woolworths, Kiama Leagues & one built towards the eastern side is required. None should be created that will block views for residents.

Just no .. build parking areas not charge for them

No paid parking.

Paid parking would kill our idyllic town.

Paid parking is not the solution.

Would not be good for the local residents and would send them shopping in places that don't have parking fees

I agree with paid parking during holiday season but this would be difficult to implement. I am **not supporting paid parking** otherwise, it is one of the many beauties of this town that we can park anywhere with (minimal) restrictions. As a resident for 20 years I would be angry and frustrated to have to pay for parking when carrying out daily tasks (eg. Grabbing a coffee, going to the post office, going for lunch). I think the main goal should be to find and **build an overflow parking space** somewhere close to the CBD. This will allow for adequate parking during peak seasons and the space could be used otherwise when not.

It's unreasonable for the locals that live in the area and are in Kiama all the time. It's such a shame seeing the council wanting to take money from its locals for parking. If you really want you would be better off making it 2hr or 3hr parking so during peak times everyone gets a chance to enjoy Kiama. **So disgusting to see that the council is more focused on paid parking in Kiama, then the real issues at hand.** I'm so not happy!

Many residents of the Kiama LGA go into the centre of Kiama for recreation e.g. beaches, sports and they have a coffee or shop. They are not visitors to Kiama but would be caught up having to pay for parking which their rates should also supply free to them. Just because you don't live in the centre of town doesn't make you a visitor and not entitled to a permit.

(27) Never mind about charging for parking, just give us more parking spaces. And similar suggestions

It would be reasonable to reduce the 2 hour parking to 1 hour in Terralong, Collins and Manning streets - perhaps the blowhole- but there isn't enough parking for any of Kiama's beaches.

We don't need paid parking we just need **more parking**.

Maybe build a parking station at the Akuna St car park. Older people (which we have many) and people with prams and young children need parking close to our shop not up hills.

More parking is definitely required, but paid parking is just profiteering. Build a decent multi level carpark on the Akuna street site and make it free.

A multi storey centrally located car park that has fee reduction with proof of spending done in local business as incentive to use it.

Parking station out of town would be great Jerrara maybe and bus people in and out. It's an idea. Traffic is so bad. More units/apartments more cars too.

The leagues club suggested the council build a multi storey carpark on their space. 300 undercover parking spaces 50 metres from Hindmarsh Park. The previous general manager was not interested.

This is absurd, arrange more parking instead of building us out!!!!

Potentially use Showgrounds and **leisure centre** as overflow parking for events with a shuttle bus or similar to cbd/ black beach for community events

I would hate to pay for parking to get a coffee or lunch or shopping my local town. Build a 3 level carpark, free parking, in the carpark opposite the Vet. This would solve parking issues in high peak holiday seasons. Though not make revenue for council. Paid parking isn't going to fix councils financial problems.

The issue is the **number of parking spaces**, not whether they should be free or not.

Parking needs to be made available to residents for normal activities visits to post office, bank, supermarkets etc

I'm a local worker who has a couple of fines already. Paid parking will only hit locals hip pockets in one way or another. **We need more parking** , I truly believe council selling the parking site behind Terralong Street is the wrong move, why not build another level of parking .

Council needs to step up & **provide more parking**. They got rid of all the parking, make them put it back. If they want the community to grow add more infrastructure. Another supermarket. Have we not waited enough?....

No new infrastructure without adequate parking provision.

I don't want to pay for parking to use my local parks, restaurants and shops. I already avoid areas due to time restrictions, it would be another added stress. Council needs to look at **providing more areas for parking or if development takes place then it should be mandatory that extra parking is included in plans**.

The parking area at the **leisure centre** should be expanded with time limits

No more weekend markets at black beach. This is a family space for picnics and there is no parking. Move markets to **leisure centre** fields or showground if they need to stay.

Don't sell the Akuna Street carpark, redevelop it into a 2 storey carpark with Business & local permits & charge outsiders a token fee. We don't need another shopping centre or retail shop.... we need to utilise our existing retail by being open.

When thinking of parking in Kiama/Gerringong it would be nice if we could find a solution to provide **more parking**, especially for residents (no idea what that solution could be). This wouldn't do that as tourists will still park there, they'll just have to pay for it. **I would hate to drive tourists away**, the towns are thriving thanks to them.

The problem is there is not enough parking. This proposal does not create any more car parks. Possible Solution - Turn the **Leisure Centre Car Park** into a multi-storey paid car park (permits available to residents) with free bus transfers into town. Park & Ride. Build another multi storey paid car park on high side of Akuna Street with permits to residents. It doesn't worry me too much to have metered car parking in the business district to raise revenue BUT the residents must have free parking. PLUS - NO TRAFFIC LIGHTS IN KIAMA.

.. build parking areas not charge for them

Increase parking infrastructure in the area. Eg Multi-story carparks (perhaps this could be used to increase revenue).

I agree with paid parking during holiday season but this would be difficult to implement. I am **not supporting paid parking** otherwise, it is one of the many beauties of this town that we can park anywhere with (minimal) restrictions. As a resident for 20 years I would be angry and frustrated to have to pay for parking when carrying out daily tasks (eg. Grabbing a coffee, going to the post office, going for lunch). I think the main goal should be to find and **build an overflow parking space** somewhere close to the CBD. This will allow for adequate parking during peak seasons and the space could be used otherwise when not.

Many residents of the Kiama LGA go into the centre of Kiama for recreation e.g. beaches, sports and they have a coffee or shop. They are not visitors to Kiama but would be caught up having to pay for parking which their rates should also supply free to them. Just because you don't live in the centre of town doesn't make you a visitor and not entitled to a permit. Council need to look at **more car parking areas**/spaces around town and when allowing development of sports facilities and buildings, think about - where are people to park using them? I am concerned about the introduction of metered parking in the town centre or near our beaches.

We also need to remember, Kiama businesses want the tourist dollar, a price to pay for that is local residents have to tolerate less parking spaces for them and the inconveniences that brings.

We just need better "surge" parking capability. e.g. if we had a central multi-story parking garage, it would allow us to handle the surges a bit better. What's the sense in letting done developer like Wilson Parking skim the cream? Tourism surges benefit all of us and are reflected in rates & taxes. We should provide surge parking as a public utility. Build it once, maintain it, done. OR, make it a DA condition for the next supermarket (ALDI?) which will soon be need.

(3) General suggestions/comments not about parking

Council spends a fortune on gardens and other amenities aimed at tourists. It is time that someone other than rate payers bore part of the burden.

FIX AKUNA STREET DEVELOPMENT. it's bloody embarrassing.

Stop trying to ruin our town

(15) General suggestions/comments about parking issues

Parking is a major problem and a consequence is the amount of escape spending to adjacent towns that have adequate parking that has kept up with those areas of development. The majority of my elderly friends shop out of town.

Make developers have adequate residential parking as well as visitor parking. Increase the ratio per unit.

For people who want to leave car at home a loop bus like Wollongong would be great idea.

Paid parking during peak holiday times, in precincts such as the blow hole, maybe an approach, however this may potentially impact business for both Diggies & the visitors centre (if less than 2hrs were metered). This issue would be replicated in many places I believe? How is a balance struck in these scenarios? Perhaps, a redesign of Terralong St is in order, one that includes a widening of the footpath in front of shops, to invite one way traffic to run westward towards the highway exit. This would need a great deal of thought of course, as we do not simply wish to transfer the congestion experienced at the main roundabout (outside red rooster) to Kiama's back streets. If you would like to hear further thoughts or a design plan of my ideas, don't hesitate to contact me. (contact supplied).

Meet with business chamber, to discuss use of public parking by retail shop keepers in main and busy streets. Address the problem of overflow paring in residential streets near Easts Beach Holiday park. There is more than sufficient land on the site , for Easts to provide parking for their patrons on their land. Redevelopment of Akuna /Shoalhaven street parking is urgently need to encourage greater use of parking in this space by locals who know where it is located, freeing up spots in the main streets for visitors. Review all leases with all market operators, in an attempt to foster a shared responsibility for parking. market days are the times when paring is at peak demand. The operators need to share in this responsibility as well. Ensure any new developments provide their fair share of residential paring on their land. I think this has not been addressed strongly in the assessing of unit developments, with minimal or no parking available for visitors adding to the burden on public streets. Easily will happen in coastal towns, Bondi, Manly and Coogee Beach, where residential streets are parking lots.

Possibly another way of looking at this if there are no practice areas within the town, is to create car park(s) outside of town and have constant transport (Minibuses?) 'round tripping' with several stops throughout the town.....fees ????

Paid parking is not a solution for traffic management in Gerringong. Kiama and Gerringong are very different places. Gerringong already has an upgraded parking lot behind the Main Street and this works well. The main issue in Gerringong is the lack of a traffic management plan- parking on both sides of Belinda street mean that the road as effectively closed to through traffic let alone emergency services.

I suggest having time limit on parking. Promoting more e bikes and tourist friendly options and no sign pollution :)

The big question is **why should workers park in the CBD anyway?** Why not have a car park paid for by businesses that would take their employees like the Terraces have? I would've said yes to Q1 had you not included businesses. Also one of the big and ongoing issues is tradies taking up CBD spaces. I have suggested in the past that they also get allocated parking maybe at the Aquatic Centre. Who would police these anyway as you would need to employ more Rangers to enforce the fines. They aren't doing that now.

Families need to visit a beach or a park for free. I'd rather see investment in more parking even on the periphery and a bus service bringing people in. This works well overseas

I would hate to pay for parking to get a coffee or lunch or shopping my local town. Build a 3 level carpark, free parking, in the carpark opposite the Vet. This would solve parking issues in high peak holiday seasons. Though not make revenue for council. **Paid parking isn't going to fix councils financial problems.**

We own a business in central Kiama and after numerous complaints to the ranger's office about cars parking for the day, in 2 hour parking, nothing is done. Customers cannot get near our shop to drop and pick up. New buildings in Kiama should be required to provide adequate parking. They seem to get away with not enough parking for their tenants requirements.

Paid parking is not the solution. We already have time limited parking in most of the streets. The rangers do regular checks so cars should be constantly moving. More ranger checks would definitely make sure turnover is happening. **The problem Kiama has is no parking for the workers of Kiama.** Major developments of multi-story residential and commercial offices are built yet parking is not considered. Developers give say 2 spots per office in underground car parks yet offices generally have 5+ staff members. Where are the rest suppose to park? There is 2 commuter car parks for the trains. The one with the boom gate closest to all the shops literally never has a car in it. Such a waste of good parking. Bong Bong Street east end (Pavilion) is one of the last all day parking for workers close enough to offices that you don't have to wear workout gear to walk to work. Yet there is a multi-story residential/commercial building about to start being built which means that the all day parking will be changed to 2 hour parking (just like the parking around Bathers did once it was built) yet no one thinks about (or cares) that the workers then have no where to park.

Put parking time limits on the spots and fine them if they run over the time.

I also believe Council should further encourage active alternatives to cars requiring parking infrastructure, including better infrastructure for cyclists (for example, there is no parking for cyclists at Woolworths, current parking 45 degrees nose in increases risks for cyclists who may not be seen by motorists reversing out, and actual road space for cyclists is constrained by parking and traffic to an uncertain narrow virtual space that expands and contracts. Encouraging less car use by both residents and visitors in the town CBD will improve overall amenity, and develop an enviable outdoor dining/ entertainment opportunity for Council to plan against.

(6) Shame on you! Revenue raising and other comments about money

Wow revenue raising to help council dig itself out of the hole they are in financially. Not how to do it at all.

Use the money to fix the sports complex for local rate payers

I don't trust that revenue brought in by parking fees will actually go towards improving infrastructure in a way everyone will benefit from it. I think we all benefit more from free parking.

Paid parking is not an option. Just revenue raising and filing the councils bank

More parking is definitely required, **but paid parking is just profiteering.** Build a decent multi level carpark on the Akuna street site and make it free.

This is just another stunt by council to improperly raise revenue. I want to see Council performing in the best interest of the community rather than for its own self interest. Kiama residents have been let down and things need to change. Paid parking would kill our idyllic town.

(2) No real problem with parking & get the Ranger booking people for income!

There is plenty of parking in Kiama. People just don't like to walk very far from their cars. I agree on market days it gets a bit tight but one just has to be patient. Mind you in the ten years I have lived in this town and parked in Terralong street frequently I have never seen a 'ranger' to police the parking restrictions. That would be a good source of income.

Parking is fine if you don't expect to park right in front of the shop you want. I'm often prepared to walk more than a minute to my destination.

End of Survey