



City of
STONNINGTON

Car Share Policy

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Author	Transport Planning

Document History

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1	13/07/2021	Principal Transport Planner	NA	NA

Document Authorisation

City of Stonnington	
Owner (By Directorate)	Environment & Infrastructure
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1 Purpose

The Purpose of this Policy is to:

- Outline the role of car share as part of an integrated and sustainable transport system and define the benefits of car share to the local community, Council, and car share members.
- Establish a Council ambition to expand car share within the City of Stonnington in line with demand to support Council's strategic transport objectives of managing growth in private vehicle trips, increasing the efficiency of road space usage and promoting sustainable transport.
- Broadly outline the process and guidelines for the locating of new car share bays to provide assurance to providers, car share members and the community of its effective management.
- Outline the rationale behind fees and charges applicable to car share providers.

2 Scope

This Policy applies to:

- Commercial car share providers.
- The application, operation and expansion of on and off-street car share on Council owned and/or managed land, including necessary changes to parking restrictions.
- Supporting the provision of car share vehicles within private developments. This Policy does not however govern agreements between car share providers and vehicles on private property.

The Policy does not apply to peer-to-peer car share platforms (such as Car Next Door) where private individuals rent out their own vehicles.

3 Objectives

Car share helps manage car-dependency as members benefit from the flexibility of having access to a private vehicle without having to pay the fixed costs associated with owning a car. Car share fulfils an important role in an integrated and sustainable transport system by filling the mobility gap for journeys that cannot be undertaken by walking, cycling and public transport.

Expansion of conveniently located car share is recognised and supported in Council's Integrated Transport Plan 2020-25 and in the Sustainable Environment Strategy 2018-2023 as a sustainable transport mode and efficient use of kerbside space. Increased car share use provides benefits to car share members, resident non-members and the broader community in the following ways:

- Can reduce member's private vehicle trips and kilometres driven by up to 50% by signalling the true cost of vehicle-use, which can increase use of active and public transport modes and reduce overall vehicle congestion and associated emissions¹.
- Can reduce local parking demand as research indicates one car share vehicle can replace up to 10 privately owned vehicles, freeing up to 9 vehicles worth of space for the local community².
- Can reduce transport costs as using car share can be cheaper than operating a private car³.
- Can improve the safety and lower the emissions of the local car fleet as car share vehicles are newer, safer and lower emissions, than the average private vehicle.
- Can enable more affordable housing, as apartments which include car share can reduce the need for private car parking which can cost \$30,000 to \$70,000 per space⁴.

Council is aiming to expand the network of publicly available car share vehicles across the municipality in line with community demand to grow membership in car share services and further realise the aforementioned benefits.

^{1, 2, 3, 4} Boyle, P. (2016). The impact of car share services in Australia. International Car sharing association

4 Definitions

Term	Definition
Car share	A professional service that allows car share members to reserve vehicles for use any day or time of the week, via an online booking platform
Car share member	An individual or business approved by a car share provider to hold membership to utilise that provider's car share vehicles.
Car share providers	An organisation approved by Council to apply for vehicles and/or on and off-street Council-managed car spaces for their members to use.
On-street car share bay	An approved dedicated street parking space for a single car share vehicle.
Off-street car share bay	A dedicated car share parking space for a single car share vehicle in an off-street car park, residential or commercial building or property.
Peer-to-peer car share	A form of person-to-person lending where private individuals rent out their own vehicles. For example "Car Next Door"
Permissible parking spaces	Parking that is allowable under the Road Management Act 2004 and subordinate legislation

5 Policy Principles

Expanding car share

The City of Stonnington will expand car share in line with community demand through welcoming applications for new dedicated car share parking bays and vehicles from car share providers. Car share providers must demonstrate they meet minimum operating criteria before applying for new car share bays. Providers must demonstrate high levels of existing or projected local use of car share services and address the below location guidance in applications for new car share.

Location guidance for on-street dedicated car share spaces

The below guiding principles inform the priority placement and Council Officer assessment of on-street car share to ensure they are competitive with private car use and are an effective use of kerbside space:

- Easily accessible and highly visible, whilst not unduly impacting non car share members.
- Distributed near public transport nodes, within easy access to activity centres and in areas of high forecast demand including high population density and forecast population growth.
- Safely located so as not to block pedestrian sightlines, impede road access or impact accessibility and can only be located in 'permissible parking spaces'.

In assessing car share applications, Council Officers will consult property owners directly affected by a proposed car share bay to understand any specific issues or matters that need to be considered.

Car Share fees and charges

Council seeks to recover the costs associated with the installation of car share bays and vehicles including signage, line marking and traffic management through fees outlined in the Car Share Fee Schedule. Council will charge an annual fee as per the Car Share Fee Schedule to cover ongoing administration and maintenance costs with higher annual fees applicable in shopping streets to recognise the higher value of parking spaces due to greater demand including for alternative uses such as roadside dining. The Car Share Fee Schedule will be reviewed annually as part of Council's Fees and Charges process. Council will consider the alignment of car share to Council strategies, community demand for car share and will undertake benchmarking with neighbouring councils in determining appropriate fees and charges.

Ongoing management, monitoring and evaluation

Council will require car share providers to provide access to monthly utilisation data to allow ongoing monitoring and evaluation. Renewal of car share will be subject to the service continuing to meet the intent of this policy as well as minimum usage thresholds. Existing dedicated car share bays can continue to operate but will be subject to the standard annual fee and process. Existing car share which does not currently operate from a dedicated on-street car share bay will be able to apply for a dedicated bay through the standard fees and process. Council Officers will provide an annual Car Share Monitoring and Evaluation Report to Council.

Supporting the provision of car share vehicle within new developments

Council supports the provision of car share vehicles within new developments to reduce the need for car ownership within the specific development and to supplement the local network of car share. If public access is to be provided to car share vehicles within new developments it requires careful consideration of design and location to ensure safe and convenient access.

6 Responsibilities

Party/parties	Roles and responsibilities	Timelines
Council	Approving car share providers Assessment and approval of car share applications, consulting affected properties and installation of car share bays Renewal, and if necessary, removal of car share bays including ongoing monitoring and evaluation	Ongoing
Car share providers	Providing documents to become approved car share providers Applying for suitable car share bays aligning with this Policy Providing vehicles, membership and levels of service that meet community requirements as assessed by Council Officers Providing monthly and membership data and annual reports Promotion of car share services to current and prospective members.	Ongoing

7 Human Rights Charter

This policy has been reviewed against and complies with section 13 of the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*, as this Policy aligns with and provides for the protection of an individual's right not to have their privacy unlawfully or arbitrarily interfered with. It is also in line with section 18, which recognises a person's right to participate in the conduct of public affairs.

8 Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

Council commits to monitoring processes, information sharing and decision making to understand the overall level of success of the Policy's implementation. A periodic review of this Policy will be undertaken by 2026 to ensure any changes required to strengthen or update the Policy are made.

9 Related Policies and Legislation

Road Management Act 2004 and subordinate legislation