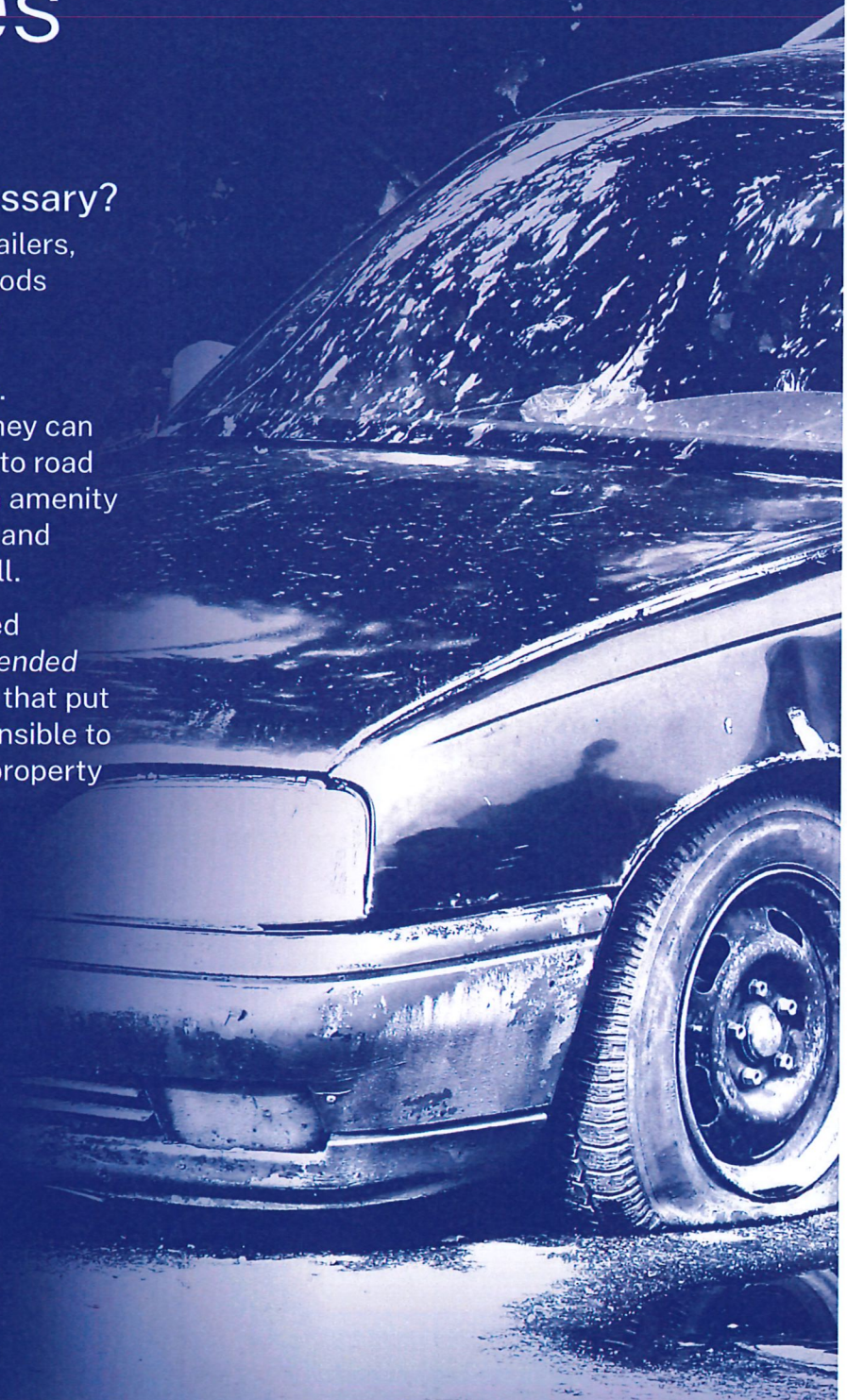


# New rules for vehicles left in public

## Why are the new laws necessary?

The number of vehicles, including trailers, on our roads and in our neighbourhoods is increasing as they provide us with independence, freedom, flexibility, enjoyment, and many other benefits. However, if not managed properly, they can result in a safety risk or obstruction to road users or pedestrians and become an amenity issue impacting on the environment and enjoyment of our public spaces by all.

The NSW Government has introduced new laws – the *Public Spaces (Unattended Property) Act 2021* and regulations – that put accountability firmly on those responsible to do the right thing and remove their property quickly from public land.







## How does it work?

Councils and other public land authorities may notify the owner that their vehicle is causing a safety risk or an obstruction or has been left unattended in one place for too long, including boat trailers, other trailers and caravans.

Once notified, the owner must respond and move the vehicle within the following risk-based timeframes:

- **immediately** if causing an obstruction or safety risk
- **3 days** if unregistered, or registered but unable to be legally driven (e.g. due to damage), and left unattended in one place for more than **15 days**
- **15 days** if registered and left unattended in one place for more than **28 days**.

If these timeframes are not met, the council or public land authority may:

- move the vehicle causing a safety risk or an obstruction to a safer place in the same general area, or
- take possession of the vehicle and move the vehicle to a place of storage, and
- issue a fine.

Fines of **\$660** apply for leaving a vehicle unattended. Higher court-imposed penalties may apply.

## Have an issue with an unattended or unregistered vehicle?

Contact your local council or the public land authority.

Authorities have strong powers to hold those responsible for property left unattended in public accountable, to remove their property from public land within risk-based timeframes.

## Responsible ownership

Under the new Act, the onus is on individuals to better manage their own vehicles, supporting the Government's commitment to keep public spaces safe and accessible for the community. This means owners must:

- take responsibility for their vehicles, including trailers,
- always follow NSW road safety and other relevant laws, and
- always park vehicles safely and in permitted locations.

## Where to get more information

Office of Local Government

W: [www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/unattendedproperty](http://www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/unattendedproperty)

T: (02) 4428 4100

E: [olg@olg.nsw.gov.au](mailto:olg@olg.nsw.gov.au)



# New rules for small or medium sized personal items left in public

## Why are the new laws necessary?

It is important to ensure public spaces are safe, accessible and can be enjoyed by everyone, without having to navigate obstacles created by unattended property. This includes personal items (not including animals) that are small or medium-sized and ordinarily able to be collected by 1 or 2 people. Examples include baggage and personal recreation equipment such as kayaks, bicycles and surfboards.

Unattended kayaks and other small watercraft on the foreshore of our waterways are an issue for a number of communities due to the access and amenity issues they can cause for members of the public.

The NSW Government has introduced new laws – the *Public Spaces (Unattended Property) Act 2021* and regulations – that put accountability firmly on those responsible to do the right thing and remove their property quickly from public land.





## How does it work?

Councils and other public land authorities may notify the owner that their item is causing a safety risk or an obstruction or has been left unattended in one place for too long. Where the owner is unable to be identified, a notice may be affixed directly to the unattended item.

Once notified, the owner must respond and move the item within the following risk-based timeframes:

- **3 hours** if causing an obstruction or safety risk (except after 11pm and before 7am)
- **7 days** if left in one place for **more than 7 days**.

If these timeframes are not met, the council or public land authority may:

- move the item causing a safety risk or an obstruction to a safer place in the same general area, or
- take possession of the unattended item and move it to a place of storage, and
- issue a fine.

Fines for leaving an item unattended will apply from **1 May 2023** of **\$330 per item**. Higher court-imposed penalties may apply.

## Have an issue with an unattended item?

Contact your local council or the public land authority.

Authorities have strong powers to hold those responsible for items left unattended in public accountable, to remove their items from public land within risk-based timeframes.

## Responsible ownership

Under the new Act, the onus is on individuals and businesses to better manage their own items, supporting the Government's commitment to keep public spaces safe and accessible for the community. This means owners must:

- take responsibility for their items, and
- always store personal items safely within their private premises or in allocated storage locations (if available).

## Where to get more information

Office of Local Government

W: [www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/unattendedproperty](http://www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/unattendedproperty)

T: (02) 4428 4100

E: [olg@olg.nsw.gov.au](mailto:olg@olg.nsw.gov.au)



# New rules for animals

left in public or trespassing  
onto private land

## Why are the new laws necessary?

The NSW Government wants our public spaces to be safe, accessible and enjoyable for all. Animals, such as stock animals, that have been left or have become unattended can be a safety risk to road users and our agricultural industry and can impact the enjoyment of public spaces.

The NSW Government has introduced new laws – the *Public Spaces (Unattended Property) Act 2021* and regulations – that put accountability firmly on those responsible to do the right thing by quickly collecting their animals that may have strayed from their property or otherwise become unattended, and taking steps to prevent them from becoming unattended on public land.





Image: Annalucia / Shutterstock.com

## How does it work?

Councils and other public land authorities may take possession of an animal when it is unattended in a public place or when it has trespassed onto private land without the permission of the occupier of that land.

An authorised officer must prioritise the welfare and safety of the animal, biosecurity requirements and safety of the community.

An authorised officer may:

- return an unattended animal to the owner (if known), or
- immediately take possession of an unattended animal without providing prior notice and take it to a place of care.

Fines for leaving an animal unattended or allowing an animal to trespass will apply from **1 May 2023** of **\$660 per animal**. Higher fines may apply for a cluster of animals. Higher court-imposed penalties may also apply.

Authorities have also been given powers to act outside of their areas of operation to ensure the appropriate care for animals can be provided in a timely manner.

Animals may be unattended in a public place with the permission of the public land authority or a law, for example, animals permitted on a traveling stock reserve.

## Have an issue with an animal wandering onto a public road?

Always contact the animal's owner (if known) in the first instance to notify them of their animal wandering.

If unsuccessful, contact the public land authority to notify them of a wandering animal.

Authorities have strong powers to require owners of animals to remove their unattended animal from public land immediately, if required.

## Have an issue with an animal trespassing onto your private land?

The new laws provide owners of private land the ability to manage stock that has strayed onto their private land.

Always contact the animal's owner (if known) in the first instance to notify them of their animal trespassing onto your private land.

The landowner may take possession of the animal and must:

- inform the animal's owner of the animal's location with **24 hours**, and
- return the animal to the owner within **4 days**, or
- contact the public land authority within **4 days** and arrange for it to be taken to a place of care.

## Where to get more information

Office of Local Government

W: [www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/unattendedproperty](http://www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/unattendedproperty)

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E: [olg@olg.nsw.gov.au](mailto:olg@olg.nsw.gov.au)



# New rules for shopping trolleys and share bikes

and other sharing service  
items left in public

## Why are the new laws necessary?

Shopping trolleys, share bikes and other sharing services offer convenient services to members of the public. However, if not managed properly, they can result in dumped or broken items obstructing walkways, dumped in parks and waterways, and impacting the enjoyment of public spaces.

The NSW Government has introduced new laws – *the Public Spaces (Unattended Property) Act 2021* and regulations – that put accountability firmly on operators of sharing services to do the right thing and remove their items quickly from public land.





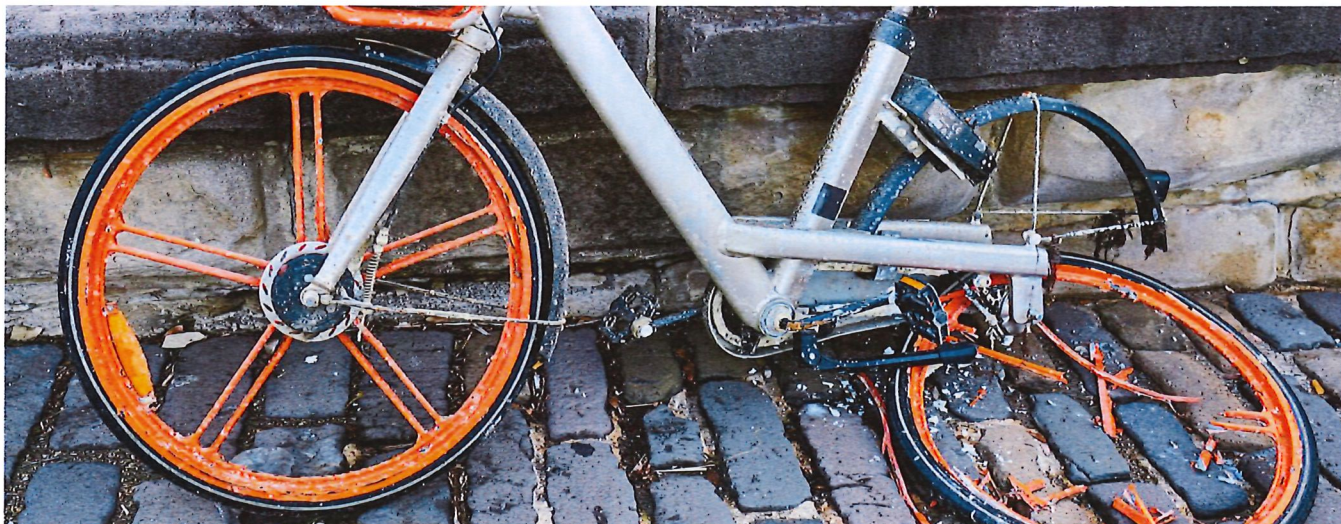


Image: cvotography / Shutterstock.com

## How does it work?

Councils and other public land authorities may notify an operator that a sharing service item is causing an obstruction or safety risk or has been left unattended in one place for too long.

Once notified, the sharing service operator must respond and move the item within the following risk-based timeframes:

- **3 hours** if causing an obstruction or safety risk (except after 11pm and before 7am), or
- **4 days** if left in one place for **more than 7 days**.

If these timeframes are not met, the council or public land authority may take the unattended item to a place of storage and may issue a fine.

Fines for leaving a sharing service item unattended (excluding shopping trolleys) apply from **1 Nov 2022 of \$660 per item** (\$1,320 for corporations). Fines for shopping trolleys will apply from **1 May 2023**. Higher fines may apply for a cluster of items. Higher Court-imposed penalties may also apply.

Councils or other public land authorities may move sharing service items causing an obstruction or safety risk to a safer place.

## Have an issue with an unattended shopping trolley, share bike or other sharing service item?

Always contact the sharing service operator in the first instance and explain your concerns.

If you are not happy with their response, contact your local council or public land authority.

Authorities have strong powers to require operators of sharing services to remove their unattended items from public land within risk-based timeframes.

## Responsible sharing service use

Operators must follow a Code of Practice which requires them to:

- ensure their items are safe to use, and
- clearly brand their items with their contact details.

Members of the public should use sharing service items safely and responsibly by:

- always following NSW road safety laws and other relevant laws,
- not leaving sharing service items in a way that poses a risk to others or obstructs access, such as blocking a footpath, and
- not vandalising sharing service items.

## Where to get more information

Office of Local Government

W: [www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/unattendedproperty](http://www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/unattendedproperty)

T: (02) 4428 4100

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