

Weddings and other private functions on Council managed foreshores

Bass Coast Shire Council is the Committee of Management for 42 kilometres of foreshore reserves along our coastline. These are:

- Phillip Island north shore (Ventnor to Silverleaves)
- Rhyll
- Newhaven
- Cape Woolamai Safety Beach
- Grantville
- Tenby Point
- Kilcunda
- Cape Paterson
- Inverloch

A map of the coastline which identifies the agencies and groups responsible for specific areas of our coastline is available to download from Council's website at www.basscoast.vic.gov.au

Council receives many queries for weddings to be held on areas that are not managed by Council. However you will need to contact the responsible agency for information on their requirements for weddings or functions on beaches. If you intend to hold your wedding ceremony on a foreshore reserve managed by Council, you will need to consider the following:

Permitted activities – wedding ceremonies and functions

You do not need a permit for an informal activity (such as a celebration, family activity or wedding) on a Council managed foreshore. However, the activity cannot interfere with normal use and general public access to the area. The activity must not affect existing businesses, physical infrastructure or the natural environment.

An informal wedding is classified as one that does not require additional infrastructure such as shelters, marquees, structures, amplified sound or direct vehicle access. You are allowed to include a small table, some chairs for the elderly and a small piece of carpet for the bride and groom to stand on.

You do not need a permit for an informal wedding and there is no fee involved. You do not have to inform Council of your intention to hold a informal wedding, but please ensure you follow the guidelines listed above.

Prohibited Activities

Wedding ceremonies that require additional infrastructure are prohibited. The use of marquees, shelters and structures, carpet or a large number of seats can create public liability issues. It also prevents the general public from using the foreshore. Fires are prohibited on all foreshore areas. The use of confetti during the ceremony is not allowed.

What are Council responsibilities for informal weddings?

Council maintains foreshores as part of our standard maintenance roster. Additional maintenance will only be undertaken if there is an identified risk to public safety. Council does not reserve or 'rope off' areas for weddings, provide car parking, vehicle access or access to power supply. Please consider that parking in many areas is limited.

Please respect our environment

An informal wedding or function must not impact on the special values of our foreshore reserves. Please keep clear of foreshore vegetation and leave our beaches in the same condition as you found them.

Council's Local Law prohibits the consumption of alcohol in public places. It is an offence to consume liquor or possess opened liquor between sunrise and sunset throughout Bass Coast Shire. All other foreshore regulations apply. These include restrictions on dogs, horses, camping, vehicles and vegetation removal. For further information contact Council's Environment team on the number below.

Remember why you chose to get married on one of Bass Coast's beautiful beaches. Please respect the environment and leave it as you found it.