

Events in Queensland

Best practice guidelines for event delivery in Queensland

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Laura Quinkan Dance Festival, July 2021



Shine on Gimuy, Cairns, October 2023



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- the State of New South Wales (acting through the Community Engagement and Events Division)
- Volunteering Queensland, and
- Queensland Government departments, units and statutory bodies listed throughout this guide.

Public Health Directions compliance

It is important for those delivering events in Queensland to understand and adhere to any public health directions to ensure the safety of our community.

To view the Public Health Directions, visit <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/legislation/cho-public-health-directions-under-expanded-public-health-act-powers>.

Disclaimer

This guide along with links, references and templates is intended as a supportive guide only and is not intended to be a complete or comprehensive guide to the coordination and delivery of your event.

Please keep in mind that policies, protocols, legal information, supporting documents, links and contact details provided in this document are liable to change. You must exercise your own skill and care in the development, preparation and rollout of your event and carefully evaluate the source, accuracy, currency, completeness and relevance of the information provided in this guide in application to your planning. You must also ensure that you seek professional advice as appropriate to you.

References to third party sources are provided for your assistance only and is not a representation or endorsement by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (Queensland) for the services or products provided by these parties. Nor does the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (Queensland) make any representation as to the accuracy, currency or correctness of information provided by third parties. Similarly, you should not interpret the absence of a reference to a third party as a comment on that third party.

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1 Introduction and overview

Each event is unique, with its own specific set of circumstances and requirements which are shaped by many elements including the event type, stakeholders, location, duration and time of year.

This guide has been prepared for organisers staging events in Queensland. It outlines the guiding principles for event organisers interacting with the Queensland Government to enable them to successfully plan and manage an event.

2 Where to start – general planning

Before starting to plan your event, it is helpful to begin with putting some thought around the following points:

What is the purpose and aim of your event?

- Is this event to celebrate something specific, engage certain like-minded community groups or raise awareness of a certain issue? Who is your target audience, and do they have any requirements that might need further consideration in your event planning?

What are your financial goals?

- Will your event be free to the public, cost-neutral (with low entry fees), raise a profit or raise funds for charity?

How will your event impact on the environment?

- What can you do to minimise environmental impact?

What are the social impacts on your event?

- What steps can you take to ensure diversity is reflected in your event?
- Have you considered the cultural appropriateness and consulted local community groups?
- Have you considered the impact of your event on local and small businesses?

How will you ensure your event is accessible?

- What measures will you implement to ensure your event is accessible and inclusive for all?

Whether you are planning a small or large-scale event, there are steps you can take to improve sustainability, many of which are simple and inexpensive.

There are three core considerations to help deliver a more sustainable event:

1. Understanding and managing the event's environmental impact

- Does the event encourage public, active and greener transport options?
- Will the generation of unnecessary waste and disposal of waste to landfill be minimised?
- Will you avoid using single-use plastic items, including those that are banned, and use reusable or recyclable products and make sure that the event has the appropriate waste collection and recycling bins?
- How will you implement and demonstrate environmental sustainability practices including engaging with a recycling company, such as Containers for Change, to recycle waste material during the event, where appropriate?
- Will the event minimise energy and water consumption to save resources and emissions?

2. Sourcing environmentally and socially responsible products and services

- Will the event provide and encourage sustainable food and beverage practices, such as reducing the amount of food waste generated?
- Does the venue support good sustainability practices?
- Will sustainability be considered in purchasing, including sourcing items that contain recycled-content, and will you manage your supply chain responsibly?

3. Engaging and communicating with communities

- Will you communicate your sustainability efforts?
- Does the event promote inclusivity and accessibility by welcoming the whole community (regardless of gender, age, ability, race, orientation, socio-economic status, cultural background or political affiliations) and ensuring that the event is accessible?
- Have you considered promoting a healthy, safe and secure event?
- Are you taking a culturally sensitive approach to delivering your event? Are there steps in place to manage delays or cancellations due to Sorry Business?

How many people do you hope will participate?

- Will your event have a minimum number to proceed, or a maximum cut off?
- Will your event be ticketed? Will it be invite only?
- Think about how these elements might impact on your budget.

Will your event be ongoing?

- Is your event a one-off, or will it be held again in the future? If your event is a one-off, consider whether you might want to hold the event again if it is successful, and what you might be able to put in place now to support future events.

Does your event align with [government objectives](#)?

- Does your event align with Queensland Government priorities and values by creating employment opportunities for Queensland, attracting new audiences to Queensland or enhancing Queensland's identity and reputation? The event may be eligible to apply for funding via the Queensland Government [sponsorship gateway](#).

Who will be involved in the planning of your event?

- Do you have a clear staffing structure with defined roles and communication channels, and do staff have the required skills to complete tasks assigned to them?
- Have you considered engaging volunteers, and who might manage them? Have you considered a volunteer recognition plan?
- Are there governance bodies or stakeholder groups that might need to provide advice or be involved in the planning process?
- Are you involving stakeholders in scheduled planning meetings when you chair, and taking minutes of these meetings?
- Have you considered what suppliers might be required for your event and whether you could engage local and Indigenous suppliers and small businesses?

Where will your event be held?

- Have you researched your venue?
- Does the venue come at a cost for hire; do you need to seek permission from landholders to use the venue and what sort of lead time do you need for this?
- Does the venue have staging, audio visual and video conference facilities?
- Have you considered any external costs such as additional security requirements?

- Is your location/venue appropriate for your target audience?
- Is your venue the appropriate size for the expected number of attendees? And does it cater to the required layout (i.e. cabaret, banquet, theatre style, etc)
- Have you chosen a space that is accessible, with adequate facilities and public transport and/or parking facilities close by?
- Will your event create changes to road access, facilities or volume of people in an area that will have an effect on local residents? Will local residents need to be notified?

When will your event be held?

- Have you considered the impact of typical weather patterns around the time of your event? Inclement weather aside, will it be too hot or cold for participants?
- Do you have an inclement weather plan? Does your plan include an undercover option if your event is outdoors?
- What else is happening in the adjacent area to your event?
- Are you aware of any other events or activities (such as school holidays, public holidays) that might impact your event? Would any of these hinder the attendance at your event or could you benefit from other activities? Will there be an impact on resources (access to public transport, transport, suppliers) from other events held at the same time?
- Does your proposed event date allow you sufficient lead time to plan, consult with stakeholders, seek sponsorship, hire staff, arrange operational elements and promote your event effectively?
- Have you considered the impact of peak hour traffic on the scheduling of your event? Peak periods can be challenging for those with accessibility and sensory requirements.

Who will be attending your event, and how will you reach them?

- Have you identified your target market?
- What elements of the community make up your target market? Have you considered how large your target market is and whether there is potential for growth? Does your event cater for any special requirements that your target market might have?
- How will you promote your event and what marketing strategies will best reach your target market? Do you have any key messages to promote your event? Have you allowed enough lead time and budget to promote your event effectively?

How can you integrate digital technology into the event?

- Is there an opportunity to promote your event, deliver it more cost effectively, or expand your audience using digital technologies?
- Could you use an online booking platform for ticketing or RSVPs?
- Could you deliver your event via webinar, or include a live social media feed?
- Is there an opportunity to film key event segments and make these available to a larger online audience post-event?
- Is digital collateral an option? Think projections instead of banners, web content instead of brochures.
- Is there a QR code guests can scan to access key documents?
- Do you have an event hashtag or a social media channel, or could you use a polling app to engage with participants pre, during and post event? Online engagement can be a great way to inform your event planning and seek feedback.

What approvals will you need to run your event?

- Have you identified which bodies or stakeholders you might need to seek approval from?
- Do you know who you need to speak to and are you aware of what is required for approvals (plans, paperwork, and application documents)?
- Is there a cost for approvals and have you allowed for these in your budget?
- Have you allowed enough time to seek approvals? Advertising or selling of tickets for your event must not commence until stakeholder engagement has occurred. Have you considered what might happen if you do not obtain approvals in time? How will this impact on your event and budget?

What will your event cost?

- Have you put together a financial plan for your event? Including all costs such as security, inclement weather plan, approvals, and necessary permits?
- How will you fund your event?
- Will you seek grants, sponsorship or financial event partners? Will your event be ticketed or will you be seeking donations or fundraising for your event?

Have you considered risks associated with your event?

- What issues or activities could impact or compromise your event?
- Have you identified these risks and put together a risk management plan that clearly outlines how you can avoid or manage risks?
- Have you developed adequate documentation to identify and mitigate risk? These include operations manuals, risk management plans, emergency evacuation plans, inclement weather plans. Who will assist you in putting together these plans?
- Have you thought about what insurances you will need for your event?
- Have you included enough lead time to arrange insurance, and is it included in your event budget?
- Have you considered a procedure for issuing refunds and cancellations if required?

Who should you talk to?

Depending on the size, location, and impact of your event, you may identify several stakeholders such as the local council, landowner and Queensland Government you may need to contact to discuss your event and requirements.

Local council

In most instances your first point of contact for your event should be the local council. The local council will be able to provide you with information on event permits, approvals, and requirements for event preparation, safety and notification to stakeholders. The local council may also have resources that will be useful for your event planning, or links to grants and funding.

In addition to an event permit, the local council can also advise whether you need approvals for other event elements such as:

- food vendors (section 7)
- serving or selling alcohol (section 7)
- signage and advertising (section 13)
- noise restrictions and fireworks (section 4)
- temporary road closures (section 10)
- traffic and parking management plans (section 10)
- events held in parks (section 4 and 7).

Ensure you have allowed enough time to discuss your event with the local council before you proceed too far with your planning. It is best to approach them at least four months before your planned event date. If you are planning a large-scale event, you should allow at least 12 months to ensure enough time to address all event elements and potential issues.

For a full list of local councils, visit the Queensland Local Government Directory provided by the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning at www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au or call 13 QGOV (13 74 68).

Queensland Government

You may be required to interact with a number of Queensland Government departments or agencies in planning your event.

Some government departments will need to be contacted to arrange permits, approvals or licences, while others may be able to provide support, advice, assistance or funding. These are detailed in the Appendix section of this guide.

Where relevant, the event may also benefit from contacting government bodies, government owned corporations or statutory authorities. Section 3 on the role of the Queensland Government has additional information.

Other stakeholders

Depending on your event type, location, size and elements, you may also need or benefit from speaking to other organisations, such as Volunteering Queensland for event volunteer recruitment and management, disability consultants to ensure your event is accessible and small businesses in the area to ensure any negative impacts from your event are mitigated.

The organisations outlined in this guidebook are not a complete list, and you may need to seek additional approvals or advice from other organisations. It is your responsibility to ensure you have identified and approached all stakeholder bodies and obtained necessary advice, approvals and assistance to ensure a safe and successful event. Some considerations are detailed in the Appendix of this guide.

3 The role of the Queensland Government

The role of the Queensland Government is to ensure events in Queensland are conducted and maintained with the safety and interest of the public in mind at all times.

The Premier is supported by Ministers, who are responsible for departments. The list of Ministers is available at www.cabinet.qld.gov.au, government departments at www.qld.gov.au, government owned corporations and statutory bodies at <https://governmentbodies.premiers.qld.gov.au/>.

Police support at your event

In Queensland, events are operated on a user pays system, where the event organiser is responsible for costs associated with police support.

Should you request police officers to support the event, the officer in charge of the local police station or establishment concerned will determine whether the services should be performed in the ordinary course of police business or as special services (at a cost to the event organiser). The provision of police resources to events must be balanced with the need to provide an adequate response to core business and will be discussed with the organiser during the planning phase of the event.

Political assemblies and marches are covered by separate legislation (*Peaceful Assembly Act 1992*) and require a separate process of approval by the Queensland Police Service and local council.

For more information, contact the Queensland Police Service via www.police.qld.gov.au or phone Policelink on 131 444.

Funding support for your event

The Queensland Government may support events and activities that closely align with government priorities through sponsorship, funding or grants. Refer to Section 12 for further information on sponsorship and grants.

4 Operations and logistics

Identifying risks

A risk is the chance of something happening that will affect objectives or negatively impact either a person, reputation or finances. Risks are also measured in terms of event likelihood and consequences.

During the planning phase it is essential you carefully consider potential risks involved in staging your event. Events conducted in Queensland must always be mindful of the safety and security of participants and the public.

Some risks to be considered are:

- financial risks
- reputational risks
- security threat
- non-attendance by performers or guest speakers
- volunteers not having a positive, meaningful experience
- equipment failure, loss or delivery complications
- noise implications
- lost children
- missing person/s
- property damage or loss
- over crowding
- poor attendance
- weather implications
- event running under or overtime
- a bushfire
- motor vehicle accident
- catering issues (e.g. poor quality/too expensive/doesn't turn up)
- scenario based planning in the event of public health directives being imposed
- waste management considerations (e.g. waste bins – overflowing, odour, poor signage/location); bin servicing requirements to ensure safety of event attendees – location, time of collections, weekend collections.

To gain a greater understanding of the principles of risk management, refer to the Standards Australia publication, Risk management – Principles and Guidelines AS/NSZ ISO 31000:2009 or alternatively, it is available at www.riskmanagement.com.au.

Developing the risk management plan

A risk management plan documents the proposed actions to treat the identified risk. This process consists of a series of steps that, when undertaken in sequence, enable continual improvement in decision-making and effective event delivery.

The steps to be documented in creating a risk management plan are:

1. Identify potential risks
 - what could happen?
 - how could it happen?
 - who could be harmed?
 - what could be harmed?
 - when could it happen?
2. Rate potential risks
 - qualitatively measure the likelihood of this risk occurring
 - what are the consequence levels?
 - what is the level of tolerance should this risk occur?
3. Actions to be taken (control measures) to minimise or reduce these risks
 - these control measures must be appropriate to the level and type of risk
 - actions should be clear and succinct
 - clearly articulate your proposed controls measures
4. Resources to be utilised
 - financial or physical resources to be employed to minimise the risk
5. Timetable for implementation
6. Mechanism and frequency of review.

Your identification of risks, and the recommendation of control measures to reduce the level of risk to an acceptable or tolerable level, are crucial in the planning process for your event.

A risk management plan template is provided in the Attachment section of this guide.

Insurance

It is recommended to discuss your event's insurance requirements with the landowner and seek professional advice about insurance cover for your event. The amount and type of cover will depend on the event being held, and the local needs.

Some types of insurance worth considering are public liability insurance, professional indemnity insurance, volunteer personal accident insurance, property insurance, and event cancellation insurance. If you employ workers at your event, you must have workers' compensation insurance.

You should also ensure contractors and suppliers have appropriate insurances to cover themselves. To ensure they have adequate cover, you should request a copy of their certificate of currency.

Incident reporting

It is recommended you have an incident reporting system in place to manage the documenting of any accidents or incidents that occur at your event. Keeping records of incidents is useful to enable discussions with the landowner, to address event improvements for future years, and may be useful for any insurance claims that may arise from your event.

An incident report form template is provided in the Attachment section of this guide.

Emergency response plan

An emergency response plan outlines how you will respond to an emergency at your event.

The preparation of this plan should involve the landowner and, where relevant, local police and emergency services. It should outline:

- details of the overall coordinator responsible for the emergency response
- chain of command in dealing with an emergency
- chain of command in dealing with a response
- potential incidents that could occur
- how an incident would be managed
- communications plan of informing event participants
- first aid facilities
- emergency service vehicle access points
- evacuation procedures
- evacuation muster points
- ingress and egress (entering and exiting) of the event site
- a list of stakeholders who may need to be contacted (suppliers, VIPs, guests, landowners) via their preferred method (e.g. two-way radio, mobile or email)
- an appointed spokesperson
- a designated person to report to and deal with media matters
- a dedicated complaints manager.

This plan should be shared with all staff, volunteers, suppliers and stakeholders before the event. Consideration should be given to exercising your emergency response plan prior to your event. This can be discussed with the Queensland Police Service, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services and Queensland Ambulance Services and should involve all major stakeholders of your emergency response plan.

An emergency response plan should form part of the event management plan. An event management plan template is provided in the Attachment section of this guide.

First aid response

Consideration should be given to whether it is necessary to have appropriately qualified first aid personnel on site at your event. Your risk assessment should be able to highlight this need. If your event is a relatively risk-free nature for participants, the landowner may be able to provide first aid support.

Should you require additional first aid support, independent organisations can assist in providing onsite support, or upskilling your staff or volunteers. It is recommended to discuss first aid response with the landowner.

Additional consideration to alternate support officers should be given relative to the nature of the event e.g., mental health practitioner.

Crowd management

Crowd management should be considered at your event. The landowner will be able to share experiences of potential issues, at either certain times or locations.

For an event with anticipated large crowds, it is recommended you consider:

- security
- venue capacity

- access points to the venue
- entry and exit points at the venue
- staging access
- VIP access
- barricade design
- provision of accessible viewing platforms and entryways
- ticketing and the ticketing process
- crowd crush
- the management of overcrowding in your emergency response plan.

If you are expecting crowds, it is recommended you contact local police as early as possible, ideally six months ahead of the event.

Children at your event

A blue card may be required for staff, suppliers and volunteers conducting certain activities. A blue card is not required in all situations where a child may be present however, if your activities fall within the scope of the blue card system you must ensure everybody who needs a blue card has one. You cannot work or volunteer in a position requiring a blue card until your application is approved. Refer to the [No Card, No Start](#) law for further information.

Organisations which fall within the scope of the blue card system are required to develop and implement child and youth risk management strategies. To assist organisations to develop and implement appropriate child and youth risk management strategies, a suite of online videos has been developed to provide information and guidance on the minimum requirements.

For large events, or those targeted towards children, it is recommended organisations have risk management practices in place. Blue Card Services has online tools available to assist. Other considerations include a plan for lost children and parking areas for prams. This might include a process for wrist-banding children with their parents' mobile number, and/or setting up an area for children to comfortably wait until they are reunited with their parents.

All staff, suppliers and volunteers should be briefed on the details of the event including the procedure of managing a lost child.

Consideration should also be given to the consent of a minor or child involved in your event and further steps may be required e.g., a consent form.

For further information on blue cards or to view the online videos and tool kit, please visit www.bluecard.qld.gov.au or contact Blue Card Services on 1800 113 611 or 07 3211 6999.

Event site

Approval is required to hold an event in national parks or reserves, or on private, local government, state or federal government land.

Should you wish to hold your event in a national park, conservation park, recreation area or State forest you may need to apply for one of the Department of Environment and Science administered permits:

- A Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) [organised event permit](#) is required if:
 - your group has more than 40 people and activities are to be conducted in day use areas or established walking tracks

- your group has more than 15 people and activities are to be conducted in remote off-track areas
- your activity may impact on the enjoyment of the place by the general public
- there may be safety issues for other park visitors
- the activity is a non-commercial competitive event
- the activity may impact on the cultural heritage or natural values of the area.
- A Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service [Commercial Activity Permit \(CAP\)](#) is required if your activity is held in a national park, recreation area or forest and is designed to make a profit, gain or benefit. [Applications attract a fee.](#)

Certain management requirements may also apply within a State marine park. A pre-lodgement is recommended with QPWS prior to application to discuss the event within a national park, conservation park, recreation area, State forest or marine park.

If your event is held in a public place, you may need to apply to the local council for approval. Please see Section 7 on Food and beverage.

You may also wish to discuss the logistics, including the impact of traffic and transport, with the landowner as soon as possible.

Waste management

The local council may require you to submit a waste management plan that might consider:

- recycling
- number of bins required
- packaging—what types are available, and quantity
- waste receptacles—type, quantity and placement
- emptying of waste receptacles—frequency and logistics
- management of potential nuisance issues including odour, noise from servicing operations and the attraction of animals
- pre-event and post-event clean up.

Ensure you consider the waste items your event will generate before ordering bins. Choosing the correct bins for your event will increase recycling and reduce waste to landfill. Ordering the right number of bins and positioning them effectively encourages people to dispose of waste correctly and can save money.

When sourcing materials you should consider whether the supplier is a signatory to a product stewardship arrangement, such as the Australian Packaging Covenant. The Covenant sets out how governments and businesses across Australia share the responsibility for managing the environmental impacts of packaging by optimising recovery and preventing impacts from packaging.

You must use appropriately licensed or accredited waste transporters and recycling and disposal facilities for the management of wastes and recyclables. Consider engaging with a dedicated recycling company, such as Containers for Change, to recycle waste material during the event, where appropriate.

Noise issues

When planning your event, including bump in (event set up) and bump out (event pack down), it is important to consider, and notify, any noise implications on nearby residents or local businesses in this planning.

You should consider the public address (PA) system broadcast times, sound checks and positioning of speakers, and monitor the noise levels during use. During bump in and bump out, it is important to pay attention to machinery and equipment, such as scissor lifts, that might create noise disturbances. Operation of this equipment should be undertaken at appropriate times, and noise protection should be considered for staff and volunteers working in close proximity to the noisy areas.

Local council can assist you with identifying times that are appropriate for when you can generate noise above a certain decibel level.

Should a noise complaint be lodged, it is important to be able to respond quickly and appropriately to avoid a warning or a fine. It may be useful to have a register, where noise levels are monitored and registered throughout the event.

Fireworks and special effects

In Queensland, possessing or using fireworks and other explosives without a licence is illegal. Only trained and appropriately licensed professionals who understand the hazards and risks may buy, store, transport or use fireworks and explosives.

When planning an event involving either indoor or outdoor fireworks or special effects, you must:

- select an appropriately licensed contractor/operator
- ensure appropriate insurance coverage for the display
- consider the local council's noise guidelines and appropriate times for displays (e.g. hold displays before 9pm, minimise repeated displays at the same site and limit noise in sensitive areas)
- obtain approval from the landowner or agent where the display is held
- ensure the Explosives Inspectorate, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, local community and other appropriate authorities have been notified before the display
- ensure neighbours of the site are notified at least four days before the display
- provide emergency planning (e.g. first aid and access to and from the display firing site)
- provide enough time for the operator to set up the display and clean up afterwards
- ensure crowd control is in place before and during the display
- respond appropriately to changed conditions (e.g. cancel the display due to unsafe weather conditions such as high winds or other factors)
- not allow a fireworks display or special effects event to proceed if you know the display does not comply with safety requirements
- report any unplanned explosives incidents that occur to the Explosives Inspectorate.

Contact Resources Health and Safety Queensland at www.rhsq.qld.gov.au for further information.

Aquatic events

An aquatic event is an organised water activity such as boat or swimming races, sailing regattas, water skiing competitions or fireworks displays likely to affect the normal operation of ships in local vicinity. If you want to hold an aquatic event you will require an aquatic event authority, which permits you to hold an event. You can apply, accompanied by the relevant application fee.

This authority allows users, whether recreational or commercial, organised or social, to have equal and safe access to its waters.

Contact the Gold Coast Waterways Authority at www.gcwa.qld.gov.au for more information on Gold Coast waterways. Contact Maritime Safety Queensland on www.msq.qld.gov.au for information on all other Queensland waterways.

Smoking

Strict tobacco laws apply in Queensland to protect the health of the community. Smoking is either banned or restricted in common areas of community events, such as eating and drinking areas, near under 18 sporting areas, around skate parks, near children's playground equipment and at public transport waiting points. In Queensland, smoking bans also apply to the use of electronic cigarettes.

Tobacco laws in Queensland also prohibit the sale of smoking products from temporary retail outlets such as market stalls, mobile vehicles, trailers, booths, and tents.

Further information about Queensland's tobacco laws is available at www.health.qld.gov.au and in the search box, type 'tobacco laws'.

For advice on managing smoking at your event and which smoking bans may apply you can make contact with your local public health unit and speak to an Environmental Health Officer. Contact details are available at www.health.qld.gov.au and in the search box, type 'public health units'.

Sun safety

Queensland has a moderate to extreme ultraviolet radiation (UVR) environment year-round. This contributes to high sunburn rates and skin cancer incidence rates that are the highest in the world. When organising an event, consider ways to reduce event attendees, staff and volunteers' unsafe exposure to UVR. Queensland Health provides practical sun safety recommendations to support event planning. Further information is available at www.health.qld.gov.au and in the search box, type 'sun safety'.

Alcohol

If you are serving or providing alcohol at your event, please see Section 7.

Temporary structures

Before you erect any new structures, or hang any signage, ensure you have permission from the landowner. Some structures may need to be weighted down, rather than pegged. Other temporary event sites might require an application to the local council or engineering certification. For safety reasons, you should monitor the weather forecast and seek the services of a professional rigger to install any signage hung overhead.

Audio visual, theming, and lighting

If your event requires sound, vision, lighting or you need to communicate with your participants, you may wish to engage a professional for this task.

It is important to consider adequate coverage to participants and enable them to see or hear and receive the full desired impact. You might also wish to consider using digital platforms through an app, lighting, screens, mobile technology or digital branding.

It is recommended to discuss expectations on appropriate noise levels with the landowner and seek the services of a professional rigger to install any lighting rigs or screens that are hung overhead.

If your event is to be held at night or in a dark venue, it is essential there is enough light to see walkways and exits in case of an emergency. It is important to ensure you have contact details of a qualified electrician, and a generator on site in case of a failure to the lighting equipment.

Weather

Inclement weather conditions and the likely impact on attendees should be considered at your event. The planned response and contact details for all stakeholders and participants should be included within the event management plan. Conditions worth considering are:

- heat and UV Index – provision of shade structures/shelter, water, first aid, sun cream and mosquito repellent
- wind – provision of shelter, and ensuring structures and attachments are properly secured
- rain – provision of shelter, and protecting leads and wiring
- hail – provision of shelter
- thunderstorm/lightning - provision of shelter
- bushfire – provision of safety/cancellation/evacuation methods
- cold – provision of shelter and warmth.

It is recommended the predicted UV Index and sun protection times be checked; the weather forecast monitored for any warnings via the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) website www.bom.gov.au/qld/, or the BOM Weather app www.bom.gov.au/app/.

In Queensland, the UV Index is moderate to extreme throughout the year and sun protection is required every day. It is recommended that event organisers ensure shade is readily available and consider providing reminders for attendees to remember to use sun protection. In the case of extreme weather, it might be necessary to delay, cancel or postpone your event to ensure the safety and security of participants. You may wish to consider event cancellation insurance to financially protect yourself against inclement weather conditions.

It is wise to consider the costs for how you would operationally deal with inclement weather and include a contingency for unforeseen costs.

A template for an inclement weather and cancellation plan, and event management plan is provided in the Attachment section of this guide.

Electricity, gas, fire and hazardous materials

If your event requires the use of electricity, or hazardous materials such as gas or chemicals, it is recommended to seek professional advice about their safe use.

Portable outdoor gas heaters can produce large amounts of toxic carbon monoxide if they are used incorrectly or are not operating properly. If they are used indoors, this can result in carbon monoxide poisoning.

There is a safety checklist for outdoor events in the Attachment section of this guide.

It is important to ensure:

- reputable contractors are used
- all cylinders and generators are in good working order
- all electrical cords are tagged and tested and in good working order
- all electrical cords in public areas are appropriately covered and taped down to prevent trip hazards
- an adequate number of fire extinguishers are provided, and staff are briefed on their use
- hazardous items are protected and clearly marked on the site plan

- there is an adequate back up option in place of failure
- these items are considered as part of the risk management assessment.

For the most part, in Queensland, it is illegal to light a fire in the open without a permit. You can apply through the 'Permit to Light Fire' through your [local fire warden](#). The Rural Fire Service Queensland may impose conditions on your approved permit to reduce unwanted risk or nuisance to other people, property or to the environment. Visit www.qfes.qld.gov.au for further information.

Security personnel

Using professional security staff at your event is recommended if you are engaging VIPs, serving alcohol, have money on site, have equipment that needs protecting or are expecting large crowds. Some venues will have preferred security providers who know the venue well. It is worth engaging with your chosen security provider early as possible, as they can provide invaluable experience in planning and operations.

Supplying carry bags

Event organisers should consider the use of carry bags at events, and whether they are required.

Under Queensland's single-use lightweight plastic shopping bag ban, it is an offence to supply single-use lightweight plastic shopping bags under 35 microns, either free or at a charge. The ban also includes single-use lightweight compostable, degradable and biodegradable plastic shopping bags. You may consider not supplying a carry bag or charge for the supply of an alternative bag, including paper bags or reusable bags.

A retailer or organisation that is found to be supplying banned bags may be fined as can a person, such as a supplier, who is found to be providing misleading information about a banned bag.

For more information on the Queensland Government's plastic bag ban visit www.qld.gov.au/plasticbagban or telephone 13 QGOV (13 74 68).

5 Financial considerations

Developing a budget is an important task in managing an event. In the initial planning phase, the development of a budget helps to establish whether the event will be viable.

The budget should include all forms of income and expenditure with realistic figures. By overestimating income or underestimating supplier costs you can run into financial difficulty. The more research and consultation the more accurate your budget will likely be.

A budget template is provided in the Attachment section of this guide.

6 Pre-event site visit

A pre-event site inspection is a valuable tool that shouldn't be underestimated. It is important for a number of reasons such as:

- forming a relationship with the landowner
- determining the best access for guests, suppliers and staff
- determining where the [direct sunlight shines](#), or any locations that are shaded
- determining amenities and storage
- determining access to power

- understanding emergency evacuation
- understanding the standard of the site that is expected during the post-event inspection
- determining site capacities and overflow areas
- determining any accessibility challenges and understanding what facilities are available onsite.

A pre-event site visit checklist is provided in the Attachment section of this guide.

7 Food and beverage

Creating a healthy environment is important for all Queenslanders to assist them to choose healthier food and drink options. When organising an event, consider the opportunities to raise awareness, promote and reinforce healthier eating and drinking behaviours.

Food

If you are serving food at your event, you must ensure appropriate consideration is given to the safe preparation and service of food. In Queensland, local councils are responsible for issuing licences and permits for temporary food stalls, catering or mobile businesses, to ensure the highest quality standards are used. It is recommended you contact the local council for information on what will be required for your event.

Should food suppliers be using bottled gas or electricity on site, please see Section 8 on Occupational Health and Safety.

Although promoting healthy food and drink at your event may not be a priority, you may like to consider the following points when choosing the food you serve or the food vendors selected:

- supply or encourage food vendors to provide a variety of healthy and nutritious food;
- consider offering food sourced locally or use local suppliers;
- ensure there is plenty of fruit and vegetable options available; and
- offer a variety of cuisines, to suit a range of dietary requirements and cultures.

Water

For public safety, drinking water should be available to all people at your event irrespective of the event type or weather conditions. In majority of cases, it is a legal requirement to ensure free drinking water is available when alcohol is being sold.

Free, clean and accessible drinking water is recommended, when possible. It can be in the form of water fountains, taps, water trailers or bottled water. If it is not feasible to offer free drinking water, bottled water for purchase should cost less than the lowest price of any other drink sold to people. Remember to ensure drinking water locations are well signposted.

Alcohol

In most cases, you must have a liquor licence or permit to sell or supply liquor (alcohol) in Queensland.

A liquor licence states where and when you are allowed to serve alcohol. Different licence types are available to suit different businesses or community organisations. Fees and legal obligations for liquor licences vary, depending on the type of business and licence. New liquor licences may take three months to be approved.

Permits are also available for non-proprietary organisations wishing to serve alcohol temporarily or at a one-off event. Permit applications must be lodged 21 days in advance of the event. Conditions may also be placed on the licence or permit around noise restrictions, signage, security and lighting.

'Wet areas' are designated by a local council to allow the consumption of alcohol in a public place, normally for particular occasions such as a wedding in a park.

If your event is held in a public place, you will need to apply to the local council for wet area approval if people intend to drink. It is important to note that having an area declared 'wet' does not rule out the need for a liquor licence. If you intend to sell or supply liquor to others, such as at a festival or fete, you will also need to apply for a liquor licence or permit.

In addition to the required permits, other points to consider include:

- displaying signage on responsible service of alcohol
- displaying signage indicating licenced areas
- providing access to free drinking water
- ensuring food is available
- enabling the safety and security of participants, and local residents
- the legal requirements for trained staff to serve alcohol.

Please be mindful that the sale of full-strength alcohol may attract additional needs for security personnel.

For more information on relevant liquor licensing or to apply for your liquor permit visit www.business.qld.gov.au/liquor-gaming or telephone 13 QGOV (13 74 68).

Banned single-use plastic food and drink items

On 1 September 2021, the Queensland Government introduced a ban on the supply of single-use plastic food and drink items:

straws: regular straws, flexible straws, straws with a scoop, cocktail straws and bubble tea straws

stirrers: hot or cold drink stirrers, swizzle sticks and hot or cold food stirrers

plates and bowls including single-use expanded polystyrene plates

cutlery: knives, forks, spoons, teaspoons, sample tasting spoons, soup spoons, chopsticks, splayds and sporks

expanded polystyrene takeaway food containers and cups.

Items that are made from compostable plastic are not banned.

The ban applies to all businesses and not-for-profit organisations unless they are an exempt business. Exempt businesses include clinics or facilities that provide care to persons with a disability or healthcare needs, hospitals, dental clinics, medical clinics, pharmacies, aged care facilities and medical suppliers.

You are not allowed to supply banned items, including straws, even when a customer asks for one.

A business or not-for-profit organisation that is found to be supplying banned items or providing false or misleading information about them or their ability to be composted, may be fined.

Consideration should be given to how the use of single-use items, including alternatives to single-use plastic, may be avoided and where this can't be avoided, sourcing sustainable items.

For more information on the Queensland Government's single-use plastics item ban visit www.qld.gov.au/plasticsban.

8 Onsite staff

Briefing

A briefing document, or briefing session is important as it provides a firm set of principles, practices and instructions to guide staff, volunteers and suppliers on their roles and your expectations of them.

The document or session should include:

- contact list of staff, their roles and responsibilities
- individual roles and tasks assigned
- event description, location and site layout
- order of proceedings or run-sheet
- emergency response plan
- the expected procedure and practices such as dress code
- any other information that will make the staff member feel at ease in their role.

Consideration should be given to an onsite event briefing with all stakeholders, staff and volunteers before the event starts.

Volunteers and volunteer management

Volunteering is time willingly given for the common good and without financial gain.

Volunteers can provide invaluable assistance in the coordination and running of an event. It is also important to understand why volunteers choose to volunteer at your event.

Before engaging with volunteers, it is important to:

- ensure you give enough time to plan the involvement of your volunteers
- be aware of the rights and responsibilities to your volunteers in supporting your event
- identify the roles you will need
- consider why a person would like to volunteer
- ensure you have appropriate insurances to engage volunteers
- ensure you have time to appropriately brief, train and debrief volunteers.

It is worthwhile considering how you will thank or reward volunteers, and follow up with them after the event.

There are number of options to source volunteers for your event, such as:

- Volunteering Queensland
- tertiary institutions (where the event tasks align with students' course desires)
- specific industry bodies relevant to your event type
- local services clubs such as Lions Australia and/or Rotary Australia
- groups with an interest in the topic, such as local residents, Parents and Citizens' Associations, or peak body organisations.

For more information on event volunteer management, training or to connect with volunteers, contact Volunteering Queensland at www.volunteeringqld.org.au.

Occupational Health and Safety

In addition to your event participants, you will need to consider the health and safety of staff, suppliers and volunteers. You will need to assess risks and put control measures in place to prevent or minimise exposure to these risks.

For more information on ensuring your event has adequate health and safety mechanisms in place visit www.worksafe.qld.gov.au or telephone 1300 362 128.

Operational staff

Accreditation is an efficient way of managing protocol and safety at an event. A number of accreditation options are available depending on the event such as shirts, badges, lanyards, swipe cards, or vests. It is worth considering accreditation for media, photographers, money handlers, food preparers, and roles dealing with hazardous materials, or those that interact with security and/or VIPs.

Appropriate mechanisms such as signage, fencing and an adequate briefing will need to be in place to enable the effective use of accreditation processes.

9 Performers and entertainers

If you are engaging performers at your event, it is recommended to have a written contract detailing a number of items such as the obligations of the performer, event conditions, payment (if applicable) and issues relating to cancellation.

Many professional performers will provide a contract for signature; however, it is advised professional legal advice is sought before signing such contracts. Should you wish to initiate the contract or agreement, you may have an existing in-house contract template, or you can contact Arts Law Centre for Australia for low-cost sample agreements. For further information visit www.artslaw.com.au.

The Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance, www.meaa.org, can provide information on performers' wages.

Copyright

If you are having pre-recorded music at your event, you will most likely need to obtain a licence from Australasian Performing Right Association and the Australasian Mechanical Copyright Owners Society (APRA AMCOS). This event licence allows you to use music from any legal source and ensures the songwriter and composer receive royalties. You will need to obtain your licence not less than 72 hours prior to the start of your event.

For more information visit APRA AMOS at www.apraamcos.com.au.

Insurance

You should ensure your performers have insurance to cover their activities while at your event. In most cases, \$20 million is the amount of coverage required for public liability insurance. It is also recommended to request a copy of their certificate of currency for your records.

10 Traffic and transport

To run a special event in Queensland that may either directly, or indirectly, impact roads traffic or transport arrangements, event organisers must obtain written approval from the Queensland Police Service and public authorities such as the local council or Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR), or other landowners responsible for the roads the event will use.

If the event uses only local council roads, seeking the consent of the local council will be required. If the event uses state-controlled roads or has a significant impact on adjoining state-controlled roads, the additional approval of the relevant TMR office is required.

If the event uses privately-owned or leased roads, approvals for the use of these roads must also be obtained from the landowner.

If you are unsure if your event is a special event, you should first consult with the Queensland Police Service in the area you intend to hold the event. Smaller events, which can be held within the existing road rules, may not require a special event permit, but you still may need to seek other approvals for other elements of your program.

For more information about the relevant TMR offices or for a list of all state-controlled roads, visit www.tmr.qld.gov.au, and in the search box, type 'regional offices' or 'Queensland state-controlled roads and regions maps'. Additional information on the role of the Queensland Police Service at your event is detailed in Section 3.

Traffic management plan

For any event which impacts road users (including traffic, cyclists or pedestrians) a Traffic Management Plan (TMP) and associated Traffic Guidance Scheme/s (TGS) will be required, and you will need to engage a Traffic Management Designer (TMD) who can develop, document and sign off TMPs or TGSs as required.

To find a qualified TMD, please visit www.tmr.qld.gov.au and search for the 'TMD qualified individuals' list.

The TMP is the overarching planning document and should be in accordance with the Queensland Guide to Temporary Traffic Management (QGTMM) Part 2.

The TGS is the detailed arrangement of the devices used to manage traffic as determined in the TMP and developed using the Queensland Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (QMUTCD) Part 3 for devices and QGTMM for the application and use of these devices.

For special events visit [Traffic management at special events](#) or for general temporary traffic management visit [Temporary Traffic Management](#).

Road closures

If a road closure is proposed, early discussion with the road-owning authority should take place during the initial contact prior to the TMP being developed. Road authority requirements and community expectations require all road closures be publicly advertised a minimum of two weeks prior to the event.

The issuing of road closure advice (traffic notices) must be coordinated with the relevant TMR regional office and local council, who have established systems to ensure the wide dissemination of this important information for the public.

Traffic and transport permits

Depending on the size of the event, different road permits may be required:

- Special Event Permit—to run a special event in Queensland, organisers must obtain written approval from the Queensland Police Service, public authorities and the landowner responsible for the roads the event will use.

- Road Corridor Permit (RCP)—a RCP is required if applicants wish to undertake an activity, works or erect a structure within the road corridor.
- Traffic Control Permit (TCP)—a TCP will ensure the conducted event can be performed safely with due care shown to both workers and all road users. A RCP is required prior to applying for a TCP.

The following documents may be required to either accompany the permit application or during the preparation of the event:

- Event management plan
- Traffic Guidance Scheme
- Traffic/Transport Management Plan.

To support special events in local communities, TMR has developed the Event Traffic Marshal (ETM) scheme to conduct very basic traffic control duties in low-risk road environments. To be engaged as an ETM, the volunteer must undertake the competency assessment and perform their duties in accordance with the approved procedure. Visit www.tmr.qld.gov.au, and in the search box, type 'event traffic marshal scheme' or 'traffic management at special events'.

Details on how to access additional information on these documents and permits is provided in the Traffic and transport section in the Appendix. A template for the event management plan is in the Attachment section of this guide.

Parking

Spectator and participant car parking and associated vehicle movements should be carefully considered in pre-event planning.

Parking needs for the event must be accommodated with appropriately located sites, directional signage and traffic controllers/event traffic marshals. Event parking should include parking areas for cars, motorcycles, bicycles and buses, as well as locations for any essential or emergency vehicles, participants, officials, spectators, media, accessible parking, traffic controllers/event traffic marshals and medical vehicles.

If existing parking facilities at the event location are inadequate, consider parking availability nearby. If you need to set up additional parking facilities, traffic controllers/event traffic marshals may be required. Easily accessible parking spaces close to the event should be provided for people with disability.

Public transport

Every effort should be made by event organisers to encourage participants, supporters and spectators to use alternative routes to access the event and, where possible, to use public transport as an alternative to car travel.

Where coordinated public transport is organised for event participants and supporters, the event management plan should contain relevant details of such arrangements and key personnel contacts.

Event organiser considerations

When planning an event in Queensland, considerations should be given to passenger transport arrangements for your event, particularly if it will impact on existing transport services, local residents, businesses, or the safety of people travelling to or from your event.

Visit www.translink.com.au and search 'planning an event' for a checklist on what to consider when planning transport arrangements for your event.

Transport operator considerations

As a transport operator, you may be asked to provide transport services to or from an event. Visit www.translink.com.au to understand what you need to consider to deliver these services.

For more information about passenger transport for events, email majorevents.team@translink.com.au.

11 Accessibility

A successful, accessible and inclusive event is one where all attendees have an opportunity to access and experience every aspect of the event and leave with a sense of enjoyment, togetherness, and satisfaction.

Effective planning, including strategies for managing ongoing barriers, can help create accessible systems and reduce major obstacles. The strategies engaged will depend on the venue, size of the event, the audience, program and the presenter. The information below is not exhaustive, and each event will have issues that are unique to the nature and location of the event and is designed to help you in your planning and to complement any insights gained from research, co-design, focus groups and user-testing.

It is important to consider accessibility for all people, including people with a disability or specific access requirements. People with a disability or older people may experience difficulty hearing what is said, seeing small print, climbing steps, understanding signage or using facilities.

Things to consider include:

- provision of public or private transport
- nearby reserved/allocated parking
- accessible toilets and/or food and drink facilities
- ramps and/or lift access
- dedicated viewing areas
- regular resting spots
- audio induction loop systems or captioning (for live stream broadcasts)
- interpreters

Consideration should be given to a continuous accessible and definable path of travel. This is a path of travel within a building that is unobstructed and able to be utilised by all people. Some of the elements of a continuous accessible and definable path of travel are:

- clear and unobstructed entrances to the building, with no severe gradient changes, no steps or an alternative to steps at the front entrance (e.g. ramp or lift)
- a wide primary path of travel for use by people in wheelchairs or people with assistance animals such as Guide Dogs or Hearing Dogs.

A continuous accessible and definable path of travel must extend to the accessible entrance from local parking, drop-off point or public transport.

You may wish to consider for people with hearing impairments:

- hearing loops and Australian sign language (Auslan) interpreters
- real time captioning (when the venue is suitable).

For people with sight impairments, you may wish to consider:

- information in large print and/or Braille
- designing accessible websites
- additional onsite staff/volunteers to assist
- provisions for guide, hearing and assistance dogs (including drinking water and shade).

If your event is ticketed, you may wish to allow discounted tickets to carers and seniors who hold a Queensland Government Carer Business Discount Card, Companion Card, or Seniors Card. For more information on these cards visit www.qld.gov.au/community.

12 Sponsorship, grants, and fundraising

Sponsorship

Sponsorship can not only assist in additional revenue raising or cost reductions for your event but can also involve the community by spreading the word.

It can be difficult securing sponsors for your event, however, having a plan, proposal and seeking sponsorship ahead of time can make a huge difference. Be realistic on your sponsorship deliverables and expectations. When you have secured a sponsor, providing quality return on investment will assist in fostering long-term partnerships.

Below are some considerations when seeking sponsorship.

Assessing potential sponsors

When deciding who to approach, think about:

- what benefits can you offer?
- what kind of sponsorship do you need? Cash, in-kind (prizes, catering, advertising, printing, or venue hire), or a combination of both?
- is your preferred sponsor compatible with your organisation and its goals?
- is there likely to be a conflict of interest between the sponsor and what you want to get out of your event?
- could there be a conflict of interest between sponsors if you have more than one sponsor?

Approaching sponsors

When approaching sponsors, think about:

- who is the person who will make the decision and make your written proposal directly to that person.
- has the business supported your organisation, or a similar one, in the past?
- submit your written proposal well in advance of the event.
- present a professional looking document. It needs to be well-written, typed, and should include:
 - full event details
 - the names of any other sponsors
 - information about any events you've held before—show your track record with copies of newspaper clippings or other relevant information
 - what you want in terms of sponsorship (i.e. cash, in-kind or a mix)
 - what the sponsor will get in return – naming rights, signage, advertising, presentation of prize, speaking opportunities, hospitality, or the opportunity to distribute promotional material
 - your contact name, address and telephone number.
- follow up your proposal with a phone call a few days later.

Managing sponsors

Once you have gained sponsorship from an organisation you should:

- prepare a written agreement outlining the obligations and benefits for the sponsor
- nominate a point of contact who will liaise with the sponsor
- keep your sponsor updated in the lead-up to your event
- publicise your sponsor in the ways you agreed in your sponsorship proposal
- send your sponsor copies of your promotional materials
- invite your sponsor to your event and give them an official role
- after the event, send a letter of appreciation, photos of the event, copies of any news stories and a report on the event and its outcomes.

Your event may be eligible for sponsorship through the Queensland Government. Sponsorship is available to businesses, associations, local councils and not for profits to deliver significant initiatives and events in Queensland.

For further information on sponsorship that closely aligns with the Queensland Government priorities, visit www.qld.gov.au/sponsorship. Sponsorship applications are accepted at any time, however ideally are submitted at least eight months prior to an initiative being held. Applications can be submitted via the Queensland Government Sponsorship Gateway via www.qld.gov.au/sponsorship.

Grants

Your event may be eligible for a federal, state, or local government grant.

Applying for grants can be a competitive process due to the limited pool of funds available and the number of organisations seeking support. Each grant also has its own funding criteria and requirements that need to be carefully considered to ensure your organisation's project is suitable.

Improving your skills in order to prepare applications for grants can mean the difference between obtaining a grant or missing out. A number of entities including Business Queensland run workshops to provide organisations with practical, first-hand knowledge on how to write grant applications. For information on these workshops visit <https://www.business.qld.gov.au/starting-business/advice-support>.

For further information on grants provided by the Queensland Government, visit www.grants.services.qld.gov.au, or for federal or local government please visit www.australia.gov.au or the relevant local council website.

Fundraising

Organisations and individuals wishing to fundraise for a charitable or community purpose must be authorised by the Office of Fair Trading. It is an offence to fundraise for a charitable purpose without this approval.

If you are fundraising or selling items at your event, it is important to consider keeping your staff and volunteers safe. You might want to consider:

- the safety and security of your staff and volunteers
- hiring a licensed security guard to monitor the movement of money
- where the money will be kept.

For further information on fundraising conditions, visit www.qld.gov.au/law.

13 Marketing, communications, and media

It is vital, appropriate consideration is given to how you will attract your audience, to enable the event to achieve its outcomes. The development of an effective marketing and communications plan is essential for the delivery of a successful event.

Initial planning and consultation with key stakeholders and landowners should be done before your event ticket sales or advertising occurs.

Some considerations to incorporate in this plan are:

- who will you communicate with?
- what will you tell them?
- when will you communicate with them?
- how will you communicate with them?
- can your online platform cope with the anticipated demand of ticket sales? What are your contingency plans?
- do you have social media platform/s in place?

The [Queensland Government Advertising and Marketing Communication Code of Conduct](#) may be consulted for further information.

Defining your target market

You should define who your event is likely to attract, and if there is a perceived demand or gap for the event. These target markets should be ranked, so you know where your resources are best spent.

If your event is annual or recurring, your existing audiences are a valuable asset. They can be ambassadors and assist in spreading the word.

Setting your objectives

Your event may already have existing objectives you wish to achieve. If not, it is important to set realistic and measurable objectives that will be evaluated at the end of the project. Some objectives might be around level of attendance, increase in revenue, or achieving a high participant satisfaction rating. All of these objectives must have a numerical target, e.g. 95 per cent, increase by 20 per cent etc.

Defining your message

You need to define what your audience needs to understand, and when they need to understand it.

- What will you tell them?
 - event times
 - reasons to attend
 - potential impacts to the transport system (road closures, diversions, public transport changes)
 - parking arrangements
 - contact/booking details
- When will you communicate with them?
 - in the planning stages
 - to notify them of the changes
 - during the event
 - after the event.

Determining your marketing tools

Once you have undertaken the above activities, you are in a position to determine the best tools to gain the maximum reach.

Some of the most common tools include:

- direct mail or direct email
- print—mailbox drops, flyers, posters
- advertising—print, radio, online, television, cinema
- outdoor advertising—billboards, bus stops, banners
- website/internet
- media releases
- social media.

It is important to ensure all messaging and imagery is consistent with your event brand.

If you set up a website, it is worthwhile understanding how many people viewed your site, what pages they viewed, the peak viewing times, and for how long. Your web developer should be able to authorise for you to see these statistics. Using these figures, and cross-checking them against your marketing activities, can allow you to understand what marketing activities worked well.

Social media can play a major role in your event delivery. It is not only useful to attract and engage attendees, it can also be used successfully for contingency planning. For example, you can update your attendees of a program schedule, change or manage attendees in the event of an emergency.

Communication during your event

It is still important to consider on site communication during your event. Some of the most commonly used on site tools are screens, signs, information booths, public address (PA) system, variable message boards, apps and printed programs.

Operational signage is an important part of any event in communicating messages to participants. Signage you may wish to consider includes parking/no parking, directional, first aid, information, and stallholder names.

It is important to discuss with the landowner where the signage will be placed, and how it will be affixed before preparing your signage.

Specific requirements for telecommunication/mobile/WiFi connection systems should be considered together with power requirements for electronic lighting, equipment, and payment systems, such as Eftpos etc.

Promotional items and giveaways

If you have promotional items or giveaways for patrons, it is important to keep safety in mind. Consider the hazards associated with your promotional items, especially if children will have access to them. Disposable items such as helium balloons released can cause serious environmental harm to wildlife.

Promotional items should be non-toxic, not contain loose or small parts that can be swallowed, and not have sharp edges or strings that could cut or choke a child. Safety and warning labelling should be included where necessary. There is also an ongoing record of serious injuries and deaths of children from button batteries. If promotional items contain button or coin batteries, you must ensure those items are compliant with the most recent [mandatory standards](#).

For further information on product safety, visit <https://www.qld.gov.au/law/fair-trading> or to obtain a copy of the Office of Fair Trading's *Information sheet for Queensland Government agencies* Product Safety – providing promotional items at events, email OFT.Safety@justice.qld.gov.au.

Media and public relations

Media considerations should form a significant part of your marketing and communications plan. There are a number of media platforms including radio, television, print, cinema and online platforms including bloggers and influencers.

You may wish to consider media platforms that require long leads (such as magazines), and post event releases that summarise your event. It is worthwhile appointing a media spokesperson, who can be available to respond to media enquiries.

If you have invited media to your event, you may wish to consider giving accreditation or a pass to allow access to the back of house areas or facilities to enable them to publish immediately.

It is also worthwhile considering how you will deal in the event of an incident/accident.

A marketing and communications plan template is provided in the Appendix.

14 Welcome to Country/Acknowledgement of the Traditional Owners

A Welcome to Country is a protocol where Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Traditional Owners welcome others to the land where the event is taking place. Only Traditional Owners who are from that particular area can undertake a Welcome to Country.

The Welcome to Country ceremony is carried out at significant events, major public functions and/or formal functions involving people from other parts of the country or from overseas such as:

- openings of festivals
- award programs
- conferences
- significant community engagement forums.

Most Traditional Owner groups or representative groups will require a nominal fee to cover the cost of conducting the Welcome to Country. A Welcome to Country including a traditional dance or smoking ceremony will generally involve a more substantial payment.

An Acknowledgement of the Traditional Owners differs from a Welcome to Country in that it can be delivered by anyone – Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous people.

This practice demonstrates respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and recognises the importance of acknowledging the Traditional Owners of the land and/or sea.

A master of ceremonies introduces the Traditional Owner to undertake a Welcome to Country and following this would Acknowledge the Traditional Owners.

To show respect for the Traditional Owners, other speakers may also choose to Acknowledge the Traditional Owners at the beginning of their speech/discussion.

If a Welcome to County is not being undertaken by the Traditional Owners, the master of ceremonies should Acknowledge the Traditional Owners at the commencement of the proceedings.

A short pause should be taken after the acknowledgement as a sign of respect before proceedings continue.

An example of an Acknowledgement of the Traditional Owners is:

“I would like to acknowledge the [Name of the Traditional Owners, if known] peoples, Traditional Owners of the land [and/or sea] on which this event is taking place and I pay my respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

For further information on local Traditional Owners contact 13 QGOV (13 74 68).

15 Event protocol

If your event is likely to attract dignitaries, VIPs or cultural sensitivities, it is important to consider their engagement appropriately. Some types of operational aspects to consider including meeting, escorting and seating VIPs, the order of speeches and appropriately acknowledging VIPs.

16 Australian protocols

The Australian Flags and Australian National Anthem should be used with respect and dignity.

It is recommended to familiarise yourself with the protocols on using the Australian National Flag, Australian Flags, and Australian National Anthem at your event by visiting the federal government website, www.pmc.gov.au/government/its-honour.

17 Legal considerations

It is recommended to engage professional legal advice at the beginning of your event as it may impact on the event delivery. Legal advice may be useful when considering:

- agreements (contracts) with staff, suppliers, sponsors, contractors, venues, performers, volunteers; and other stakeholders
- type of insurances that might be applicable to your event
- the drafting of entry, application or competition forms
- taxation issues
- fundraising plans
- issues relating to intellectual property.

An independent national community centre for the arts, Arts Law Centre of Australia, can provide low-cost sample agreements to be modified. For more information, visit www.artslaw.com.au.

18 Documentation

Coordinating an event is a complex task, often with the involvement of many stakeholders. Good record keeping will assist in the execution of an event. Some documents you may wish to consider keeping are:

- project plan
- event timelines (including necessary steps in the planning and delivery phases)
- event budget
- minutes of meetings, notes and actions taken at meetings, confirmation emails
- key stakeholders who have been consulted and their input
- event delivery checklist

- a record of all communications (electronic, physical by meetings, face to face or phone calls)
- event management plan—one document or manual that could be supplied to staff, volunteers or key stakeholders. The event management plan should include:
 - event run-sheets
 - production schedules
 - event site plan
 - risk management plan
 - transport management plan
 - permits and approvals
 - emergency response plan
 - contact list
 - staff roles and responsibilities
 - inclement weather plan
 - public health directives
 - Function security including entry requirements to the venue ie government identification.
- contracts with suppliers, landowners, entertainers, staff, and volunteers
- feedback or survey results from attendees and stakeholders
- final reports
- sponsor reports.

Templates are provided in the Attachment section of this guide.

19 Event delivery

Pre-event

Ensure you have factored contingency timing into your run-sheet, to allow for staff or suppliers to address unforeseen issues.

Where possible, it is recommended having a rehearsal to ensure the audio-visual system is working effectively, and key staff know what is expected of them. N.B. this may incur additional staffing costs.

At event delivery time, it is recommended all parties have been:

- provided, and requested they read, a copy of the event management plan
- briefed of their expectations
- provided appropriate documentation to assist them in their role
- provided with any foreseeable issues within their scope of works.

On the day

On event day, it is recommended all documentation, including the Event Management Plan and its associated documents are available onsite.

Post event

Immediately after your event, consideration should be given to a 'hot' de-brief with onsite stakeholders. This 'hot' de-brief will highlight the main issues and successes and determine the structure and key points to address during the planned stakeholder de-brief in the coming days/weeks.

When your event is over, there's often a number of tasks still to do such as:

- conduct a debrief meeting
- pay your suppliers and finalise the budget
- finalise the event report
- acquit any grant monies
- collate and evaluate survey results and data
- thank staff, volunteers, suppliers and sponsors for their input in the event
- prepare and distribute any sponsor reports
- hand the site back to the landowner.

It is advisable to keep all documentation for your event for a certain period of time. In the event that issues may arise, it is important to have an accurate report. You should seek legal advice about how long to retain your records.

20 Evaluation

Evaluation is an important part of an event lifecycle to ensure successes can be celebrated, and issues can be addressed. There are many ways you can effectively evaluate your event, such as:

- conducting a face to face, online, phone, and/or onsite survey (for participants, stakeholders, suppliers or to all)
- sending an evaluation sheet survey (for participants, stakeholders, suppliers or to all)
- measuring success against your objectives
- measuring attendee figures and/or media attention
- holding a debrief meeting with key stakeholders
- measuring telephone calls/emails received regarding the event
- measuring website visits and/or social media likes/shares.

Being able to critically assess these elements will enable a greater outcome for the next event.

21 Attachments – templates

- A. Event management plan
- B. Incident report form
- C. Pre-event site inspection checklist
- D. Safety checklist for outdoor events
- E. Event site plan
- F. Inclement weather and cancellation plan
- G. Event budget template
- H. Risk management plan
- I. Order or proceedings
- J. Bump and Run (event runsheet)
- K. Marketing and communications plan
- L. Media release
- M. Final report

22 Resources

Accessible events

For considerations in designing accessible events, visit Arts Access Australia at www.artsaccessaustralia.org.

For considerations in designing age-friendly events, visit the World Health Organization at www.who.int.

APRA AMCOS

To obtain an appropriate music licence for your event, visit www.apraamcos.com.au.

Arts Law Centre of Australia

For low cost sample templates and contracts, visit www.artslaw.com.au.

Protocol and Australian honours

For event protocols such as the Australian Government Honour System and Australian Flag protocol, visit www.pmc.gov.au/government/its-honour.

The State Order of Precedence can assist in preparing the list of acknowledgements for hosts and speakers at your event. These are detailed on www.premiers.qld.gov.au.

The protocol guide to forms of address can assist in addressing dignitaries and VIPs. These are detailed on www.premiers.qld.gov.au.

Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance

For information on arts workers, visit www.meaa.org.

Promotional items

For standards, regulations and general guidance on supplying safe promotional products visit www.productsafety.gov.au.

Risk management

To gain a greater understanding of the principles of risk management, Standards Australia has a publication Risk management – Principles and Guidelines AS/NZS ISO 31000:2009.

Traffic and transport

Information can be found in Section 10, Traffic and Transport. Further information on public transport for events, visit www.translink.com.au.

Tourism and Events Queensland (TEQ)

For information on funding available to events via the Queensland Destination Events Program (QDEP), and access to the Queensland Events Guide; a comprehensive resource designed to assist organisers throughout an entire event project, visit www.teq.queensland.com.

TEQ also works in partnership with the Australian Tourism Data Warehouse (ATDW), which is Australia's largest tourism network. There is no cost to list your event and event organisers can register, create and manage their event listings via www.atdw-online.com.au.

Volunteering Queensland

For assistance with event volunteering and management, or a range of helpful and free resources and templates from Volunteering Queensland, visit www.volunteeringqld.org.au.

Waste and recycling initiative

The Australian Packaging Covenant is a sustainable packaging initiative which aims to change the culture of business to design more sustainable packaging, increase recycling rates and reduce packaging litter. For more information or to see signatories, visit www.packagingcovenant.org.au.

23 Appendix – contacts and approvals

The details below may assist in your planning and approval processes.

Accessibility

It is important to consider accessibility to all people, including those with a disability or issues with access. People with disabilities or older people may experience difficulty hearing what is said, seeing small print, climbing steps, understanding signage or using facilities.

Advice required from:

- Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships
Telephone: 13 QGOV (13 74 68); website: www.dsdsatsip.qld.gov.au
- Local council
- Landowner

Recommended deadline: Contact in the initial phase of planning.

Alcohol

If you are selling or serving alcohol you might require a permit or licence:

- A [liquor licence](#) states where and when you are allowed to serve alcohol. Different licence types are available to suit different businesses or community organisations.
- [Permits](#) are also available for non-proprietary organisations that want to serve alcohol temporarily or at a one-off event.

Approval/licence required from:

- Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation
Telephone: 13 QGOV (13 74 68); website: www.business.qld.gov.au/liquor-gaming
- Local council
- Local police

Recommended deadline: A licence can take 4-6 months to be processed. Permit applications must be lodged 21 days in advance of the event. Application fees may apply. Conditions may also be placed on the licence or permit around noise restrictions, signage, security and lighting.

Children

A blue card may be required to conduct certain activities. It is important to note that a blue card is not required in all situations where a child may be present however, if your activities do fall within the scope of the blue card system you must ensure that everybody who needs a card has a card. If you are performing volunteer work with children that requires a blue card, you must hold the card before commencing the duties. If you are a paid employee, you can commence the activities as long as an application form has been lodged with Blue Card Services.

If you are unsure if you require a blue card, please contact Blue Card Services.

Approval/license required from:

- Blue Card Services,
Telephone: 07 3211 6999
website: www.bluecard.qld.gov.au; email: info@bluecard.qld.gov.au

Recommended deadline: You should allow at least 28 business days for an application to be processed. Applications will take longer to process if the form is incomplete or police or disciplinary information is returned.

Competitions, raffles, bingo and other games

Art unions, raffles, bingo, lucky envelopes, Calcutta sweeps and promotional games (trade promotions or competitions) are regulated under the *Charitable and Non-Profit Gaming Act 1999*.

Under the Act, these different games are broken into categories, some of which require a [licence](#).

Approval/licence required from:

- Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation
Telephone: 13 QGOV (13 74 68); website: <https://www.justice.qld.gov.au/about-us/services/liquor-gaming>

Recommended deadline: Applications must be lodged between 21-28 days prior to the commencement date of the game/s. Applications may require a fee.

Copyright

The approval to play pre-recorded music, reading, images at your event may require a licence.

Approval/licence required from:

- APRA AMCOS
Telephone: 02 9935 7900; website: www.apraamcos.com.au
- The copyright holder (e.g. author, photographer)

Recommended deadline: Minimum 72 hours before the event commences.

Electricity and gas

Any activity involving electricity or the use of gas.

Approval/advice required from:

- Landowner
- In-house electrician/external electrical contractor
- Local council
- Workplace Health and Safety Queensland
Telephone: 1300 362 128; website: www.worksafe.qld.gov.au

Recommended deadline: Timeframes may vary. Check with local council of landowner.

Fire

Any activity involving fire, or fire pits may require a [permit](#).

Approval/permit required from:

- Fire warden finder, Rural Fire Service Queensland www.qfes.qld.gov.au
- Local council
- Landowners and landowners of the adjoining properties

Recommended deadline: Minimum 72 hours before the event commences, however these times may vary. Your local fire warden can advise of the appropriate times.

Fireworks and special effects

If you are staging a fireworks display, refer to [Organising a safe and legal fireworks display](#) and [Queensland code of practice: Control of Outdoor fireworks displays](#).

Approval/licence required from:

- Resources Safety and Health Queensland - Explosives Inspectorate
Telephone: 07 3199 8022; website: www.rshq.qld.gov.au
- Local council
- Landowners and landowners of the adjoining properties

Recommended deadline: You must notify the Explosives Inspectorate at least seven calendar days before the fireworks display is staged. You are obligated to notify the local community of the fireworks display, and neighbours in close proximity no less than four days before the proposed fireworks display, via radio, local newspapers or direct mail.

It is recommended contacting the Resources Safety and Health Queensland to understand your responsibilities in staging a fireworks display.

Fundraising

Any activity raising funds from the wider public.

Approval/licence required from:

- Office of Fair Trading
Telephone: 13 QGOV (13 74 68); website: www.qld.gov.au/fairtrading
- Local council
- Charity you are fundraising for
- Landowner

Recommended deadline: Application times vary between 14 days to one year. Contact the Office of Fair Trading for further information.

Grants and funding support

Your event may be eligible for a federal, state, or local government grant. For further information on grants provided by the Queensland Government, visit www.qld.gov.au/community.

Grants and/or advice available from:

- Business Queensland (grant writing workshops)
Telephone: 13 QGOV (13 74 68); website: www.business.qld.gov.au
- Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport
Telephone: 13 QGOV (13 74 68); website: www.qld.gov.au/recreation/sports/funding
- Tourism and Events Queensland
Telephone: 07 3535 3535; website: www.teq.queensland.com
- Federal government
website: www.australia.gov.au
- Local council

Recommended deadline: Check the respective website for eligibility, guidelines, opening and closing dates.

Landowners

Approval is required to hold an event in national parks or reserves, or on private, local government, state or federal government land.

Should you wish to hold your event in a national park, recreation area or State forest you might need to apply for one of the Department of Environment and Science administered permits below:

- Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) [event permit](#) if:
 - your group has more than 40 people and activities are to be conducted in day use areas or established walking tracks
 - your group has more than 15 people and activities are to be conducted in remote off-track areas
 - your activity may impact on the enjoyment of the place by the general public
 - there may be safety issues for other park visitors
 - the activity is a non-commercial competitive event
 - the activity may impact on the cultural heritage or natural values of the area.
- Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service [commercial activity permit \(CAP\)](#) if your activity is held in a national park, recreation area or State forest and is designed to make a profit, gain or benefit. [Applications attract a fee.](#)

A pre-lodgement is recommended with QPWS prior to application to discuss the event.

Approval/permit required from:

- Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services (QPWS), Department of Environment and Science (for the use of national parks, marine parks and forests)
Telephone: 13 QGOV (13 74 68); website: www.des.qld.gov.au
- Local council
- Landowner

Recommended deadline: As early as possible. Approvals for permits through QPWS may take up to 40 business days. Contact the local council and/or landowner in the initial phase of planning. Application fees may apply.

Lighting structures

There are a number of physical structures owned by Queensland Government, local councils or private companies available for lighting and/or light projections to celebrate events and promote a variety of causes throughout the year.

Lighting assets can be expensive and time consuming, and not all requests will be supported.

Approval/license required from:

- Landowner

The list below is not an exhaustive list. Please contact the building manager of significant structures in your local area to discuss opportunities for lighting assets for your event/campaign.

Asset	Owner	Contact details	About the asset
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Brisbane City Council assets: Story Bridge Kangaroo Point, Victoria Bridge, Reddacliff Place sculptures: Donna Marcus <i>Steam 2006</i>	BCC	Apply via https://forms.business.gov.au/aba/qldlq1/light-up-brisbane-and-hang-a-bridge-banner-application/	Available for light ups in support of significant city, state or national campaigns or events. Apply online.
Brisbane City Council assets: City Hall and King George Square	BCC	Apply via https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/things-to-see-and-do/council-venues-and-precincts/brisbane-city-hall/lighting-city-hall-and-king-george-square	Available for light ups in support of significant city, state or national campaigns or events. Apply online.
Brisbane City Council asset: Sandgate Town Hall	BCC	Apply via https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/laws-and-permits/laws-and-permits-for-businesses/light-up-brisbane-and-hang-a-bridge-banner/lighting-sandgate-town-hall	Apply for light ups for important events taking place in the hall or significant local, state or national events
Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre (BCEC)	PO	LarissaD@bcec.com.au tracyj@bcec.com.au	BCEC's outside lighting is used to promote and theme major BCEC events. Any external requests will be considered around the existing schedule. Apply via email.
City Parklands (South Bank Parklands and Roma Street Parkland)	BCC	Apply via vicki.ciocca@cityparklands.com.au	Apply for light ups for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brisbane sign – cultural forecourt at South Bank • South Bank Arbour – South Bank Parklands • Victoria Bridge Abutment – located at end of cultural forecourt at South Bank • Waterfall – Roma Street Parkland
The Gabba	SQ	info@thegabba.com.au	Predominantly used to host sporting events and concerts, but will consider other requests in light of the schedule. Apply via email.
Kurilpa Bridge	QG	ggao.enquiries@epw.qld.gov.au or QGAO.ParksandBridges@epw.qld.gov.au 07 3008 2827	Annual lighting schedules are programmed at the start of the year and amended throughout the year as requests are received. Apply via email.
Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC)	QG	venuesales@qpac.com.au 07 3840 7087 www.qpac.com.au	QPAC's outside lighting is used to promote and theme major QPAC events. Any external requests will be considered around the existing schedule. Apply via email.
Judith Wright Arts Centre	QG	jwac@arts.qld.gov.au 07 3872 9000	External requests are considered around the existing schedule. Apply via email. Charges may apply.

Bulmba-ja Arts Centre (Cairns)	QG	Bulmba-ja@arts.qld.gov.au 07 4047 4910	External requests are considered around the existing schedule. Apply via email. Charges may apply.
Parliament House	QG	Office.oftheSpeaker@parliament.qld.gov.au 07 3553 6702	Permission to be requested via the Clerk of Parliament. Apply via email.
Skypoint Observation Deck, Q1	PO	events@skypoint.com.au	Skypoint, atop the iconic Q1 building at the Gold Coast. Apply via Email.
Sir Leo Hielscher Bridges (Gateway)	PO	MotorwayEnquiries@transurban.com 07 3323 0000	Available to support community, cultural or charity events. Apply via email.
Suncorp Stadium	SQ	info@suncorpstadium.com.au 07 3331 5000 www.suncorpstadium.com.au	Predominantly used to host sporting events and concerts, but will consider other requests in light of the schedule. Apply via email.
Wheel of Brisbane	PO	info@wheelofbrisbane.com.au 07 3844 3464	Annual lighting schedule determined are determined at the start of the year. Apply via email.
Wintergarden & Broadway on Adelaide (170 Queen Street)	PO	wintergarden@apl.ill.com 07 3229 9755	Apply via email.

BCC – Brisbane City Council **PO** – Privately owned **QG** – Queensland Government **SQ** – Stadiums Queensland

Recommended deadline: As early as possible to discuss your requirements. Some assets have a forward calendar of special lighting opportunities so will not always be available at the time you wish to implement your campaign.

Noise levels

Confirming appropriate noise levels and times for installation or playing amplified noise at your event.

Approval/licence required from:

- Local council
- Local police
- Landowner

Recommended deadline: Contact the local council or landowner in your early stages of planning.

Police support

The officer in charge of the local police station or establishment concerned will determine whether police services should be performed in the ordinary course of police business or as special services (at a cost to the event organiser).

- **Approval/licence required from:**
- Local police
Telephone: 131 444; website: www.police.qld.gov.au

Recommended deadline: Contact to be made early in planning, prior to advertising or selling tickets to the event.

Promotion

Assistance in promoting your event.

Approval/licence required from:

- Tourism and Events Queensland
Telephone: 07 3535 3535; website: www.teq.queensland.com
- Regional Tourism Organisations
Listed individually on Tourism and Events Queensland's website: www.teq.queensland.com
- Local council
- Landowner

Recommended deadline: As soon as possible, and when preparing your marketing plan.

Protest/march/public assembly

An activity likely to disrupt the normal road conditions will be required to notify local police.

Approval/licence required from:

- Local police
- Landowner

Recommended deadline: Minimum five days before the event commences.

Signage

Any physical or digital signage at, or near your event site.

Approval/licence required from:

- Local council
- Landowner

Recommended deadline: Contact the local council or landowner.

Significant event

Any event having the potential to draw large crowds, generate significant noise, or likely to disrupt the normal road conditions.

Approval/licence required from:

- Queensland Police Service
Telephone: 131 444; website: www.police.qld.gov.au
- Local council
- Landowner

Recommended deadline: At least 12 months prior to the event. Contact the local council, local police or landowner in the initial planning phase and prior to selling tickets or advertising the event.

Smoking

Smoking is either banned or restricted at common areas of community events such as eating and drinking areas, under 18 sporting areas, around skate parks, near children's playground equipment and at public transport waiting points. In Queensland smoking bans also apply to the use of electronic cigarettes.

Advice from:

- Local public health unit
Telephone: 13 QGOV (13 74 68); website: www.health.qld.gov.au and in the search box, type 'public health units'.

Traffic and transport

Further information on [Traffic Control Permits](#), Traffic Guidance Schemes and Traffic/Transport Management Plans is available in the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), Part 3—Works on Roads, Section 2. Visit www.tmr.qld.gov.au and in the search box, type 'MUTCD'.

Further information on [Road Corridor Permits](#) can be accessed at www.tmr.qld.gov.au, and in the search box, type 'Road Corridor Permit'.

Applications for a Road Corridor Permits and/or Traffic Control Permit can be made online through the self-managed [Customer Portal](#) once an account has been created.

Traffic Control Permits, Road Corridor Permits and works agreements to gain access to the state-controlled and corridor network, are submitted, processed and managed through the portal.

Additional information on the Event Traffic Marshal scheme can be accessed at www.tmr.qld.gov.au, and in the search box, type 'Event Traffic Marshal'.

Approval/licence required from:

- Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR)
Telephone: 13 QGOV (13 74 68); website: www.tmr.qld.gov.au
- Queensland Police Service
Telephone: 131 444; website: www.police.qld.gov.au
- Local council
- Landowner

Recommended deadline: Contact the landowner or local council as soon as possible. Contact your local TMR roads office if your event uses state-controlled roads, or has a significant impact on adjoining state-controlled roads.

Water safety

Aquatic activities (boat or swimming races, sailing regattas, water skiing competitions, fireworks displays) that are likely to affect the normal operations of vessels may require an aquatic event authority. You may also need to contact the TransLink team for advice around potential impacts to public transport.

You must apply to hold an aquatic event to Maritime Safety Queensland/Gold Coast Waterway Authority before the event. [Applications attract a fee.](#)

Approval/licence required from:

- Maritime Safety Queensland
Telephone: 13 QGOV (13 74 68); website: www.msq.qld.gov.au
- Gold Coast Waterways Authority
Telephone: 5539 7350; website: www.gcwa.qld.gov.au
- Department of Transport and Main Roads
Telephone: 13 QGOV (13 74 68); website: www.tmr.qld.gov.au
- Local police

- Local council / landowner

Recommended deadline: Applications must be lodged 30-90 days prior to the event. Contact your local Maritime Safety Queensland office in the early planning stages. Application fees apply.

Waste management

Preparation of how waste will be dealt with at your event – a waste management plan will be required for the events listed in Section 1 of this document

Approval/licence required from:

- Local council
- Landowner

Recommended deadline: Contact the local council or landowner.

Welcome to Country

It is important to ensure correct protocol is adhered to when liaising with and identifying Traditional Owners.

Advice from:

- Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships
Telephone: 13 QGOV (13 74 68); website: www.qld.gov.au

Recommended deadline: It is good practice to request the involvement of the Traditional Owner at least two weeks' prior to the event day.