

Caravans for Temporary Accommodation

Information Sheet

VERSION 1

May 2026

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The use of caravans for temporary accommodation is regulated under the *Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds Regulations 1997*. Recent amendments have removed the need for planning approval in all applicable circumstances, with the process instead managed through health and building requirements.

Legislative Update:

Recent amendments to the *Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds Act 1995* now allow caravans to be used for temporary accommodation on private property for up to 24 months with the written approval of both the landowner and the local government. Extensions beyond 24 months may be granted through a reapplication process.

These changes simplify the process for residents while ensuring health, safety, and amenity are maintained, particularly for transitional housing, seasonal accommodation, and situations involving house construction or natural disasters.

Important: Camping in caravans is prohibited without approval under Regulation 10 of the *Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds Regulations 1997*, but Regulation 11A provides a mechanism for approval on any private property, subject to the application and assessment process outlined below.

This information sheet provides guidance on when and how caravans can be used for temporary accommodation within the City of Greater Geraldton.

This information sheet is for guidance only and does not replace any statutory planning, building, or health requirements.

1.1 Objectives

The objectives of this information sheet are to:

- Provide clear guidance on the permitted use of caravans for temporary accommodation.
- Ensure compliance with the *Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds Regulations 1997*.
- Clarify the approval process and requirements for using caravans in residential and non-residential areas.

For further information please contact the City of Greater Geraldton on:

Phone (08) 9956 6600

Email council@cgg.wa.gov.au

In person **Civic Centre**
63 Cathedral Avenue
Geraldton
Mullewa office
Cnr of Thomas & Padbury Street
Mullewa

2.0 REQUIREMENTS

2.1 Caravans on Private Property

Caravans may be used for temporary accommodation on any private property for up to 24 months, subject to:

- Written approval from both the landowner and the City of Greater Geraldton under Regulation 11A of the *Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds Regulations 1997*.
- Compliance with relevant health, safety, and building requirements.
- Maintenance of the caravan and site in a manner that does not detract from local amenity.
- Adequate ablution and washing facilities connected to an approved water supply and effluent disposal system.

Note: Approval is at the City's discretion and may involve consultation with neighbouring properties if deemed necessary.

3.0 INFORMATION REQUIRED TO SUPPORT AN APPLICATION

To apply for temporary caravan accommodation approval under Regulation 11A, applicants must provide:

- Written consent from the landowner.
- A site plan illustrating the proposed location of the caravan on the property.
- Details of the caravan, including dimensions, facilities, and intended period of use.
- Evidence of appropriate utility connections, including water supply and effluent disposal systems.
- A statement outlining the reason for the temporary accommodation request.

Note: The City of Greater Geraldton may request additional information if necessary to complete its assessment.

4.0 DEFINITIONS

Caravan: As defined in the *Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds Regulations 1997* – a vehicle designed or fitted or built to be capable of being towed or hauled by a motor vehicle, and used or designed to be used for habitation.

Temporary Accommodation: Accommodation provided for a limited period not exceeding **24 months**, typically while constructing a residence, responding to an emergency, or accommodating seasonal workers.

5.0 RELEVANT LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS

Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds Regulations 1997
Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds Act 1995
National Construction Code (NCC)
City of Greater Geraldton Local Planning Scheme No. 1

6.0 ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds Regulations 1997](#)