



**Friday 14 May 2021**

## Parking awareness in Smithton

Circular Head Council and Tasmania Police have been receiving an increasing number of complaints about illegal parking in Smithton.

The complaints cover illegal parking in spaces designated for people with disabilities, overstaying the time limit in timed parking spaces and parking in taxi-zones, where elderly shoppers are waiting to be collected.

Car parking is free of charge throughout the Municipality of Circular Head.

The major population centre of Smithton has timed but free parking bays in the main commercial area of town, as well as 6 disabled parking permit spaces and 2 taxi parking zones.

Circular Head Mayor, Daryl Quilliam said “Timed parking is designed to give everyone an opportunity to visit town, enjoy some shopping, deal with some business, enjoy a bite to eat and then free up the parking space for someone else to use. There is also plenty of free parking within walking distance of the town centre for those who want to stay for a longer period.”

“People with disabilities are entitled to accessible parking and this should be respected by everyone. If they cannot park in an accessible parking bay because it has been taken by someone who has no right to use it, they are unable to spend time in town. We need to raise public awareness of this very important issue.”

Tasmania Police patrol Smithton’s accessible parking bays, loading zones and taxi zones but resource limitations prevent them from actively patrolling all timed parking in the manner of a parking attendant. They also attend when a complaint is made about illegal parking and either move people along, provide education about parking or issue an infringement notice. They have also spoken to a number of businesses in regard to staff using on-street parking in timed zones for extended periods whilst at work.

Without a by law, Circular Head Council has no legal ability to issue parking infringement notices. Creating a by law would take approximately twelve months and would require operational changes, including the employment of a parking infringement officer, which would have to be funded from Council rates.

“We’re pretty laid back in Circular Head and fines for parking infringements are rare. If people do the right thing, there’s no need for that to change. We’re just asking drivers to act responsibly and other members of the public to be vigilant, particularly to help ensure that designated disability parking bays are available to the people who need them.” Said Mayor Quilliam.

**Authorised for general media distribution by Daryl Quilliam, Mayor, Circular Head Council  
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