Busking Kit and Set Planner

Page 1: permit details and kit checklist. Print it, fill it in and keep it in your guitar case.

1. My busking permit

Detail	Answer	Detail	Answer
Council		Permit number	
Permit type		Expiry date	
Amps allowed where?		Time limit per spot	
Busking hours		Move how far before playing again?	

2. Busking kit checklist

Item	Packed	Item	Packed
Busking permit and photo ID		Guitar, tuned, with fresh strings	
Spare strings and string winder		Clip on tuner and capo	
Picks (several)		Strap and strap locks	
Battery amp, charged (only where amps are allowed)		Spare batteries or power bank for the amp	
Lead and a spare		Small stand or stool	
Case or hat for tips		Sign with your name and social media handle	
Card reader or payment QR code		Set list (page 2)	
Water		Sunscreen and a hat	
Towel and string cloth		Small bag for rubbish	

3. Before you start playing

Check	Tick
Permit on display or in your pocket, as your council requires	
Footpath, doorways, crossings and building entries kept clear	
Far enough from other buskers, events and memorials (check your council rules)	
Volume checked from a distance: turn down if people nearby have to raise their voices	
Speakers pointed away from shops and homes	
Phone timer set for your time limit	

Darwin reminder (checked 16 Nov 2026): amps are only allowed at Raintree Park, for instruments not vocals, and you must tell the City of Darwin Customer Service Team the day before. In the Smith Street Mall, use only the four designated spots. Up to two hours in one place, then move more than 150 metres.

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Page 2: a 45 minute set planner and a pitch log. Fits Adelaide's 45 minute limit and Perth's one hour limit.

4. 45 minute set planner

Time	Job of this part	Song	Key	Length	Done
0 to 5 min	Stop people walking past: upbeat and familiar				
5 to 10 min	Strong song 1				
10 to 15 min	Strong song 2				
15 to 20 min	Strong song 3				
20 to 25 min	Slower song or an original				
25 to 30 min	Crowd pleaser				
30 to 35 min	High energy 1				
35 to 40 min	High energy 2				
40 to 45 min	Closer, thank you, social handle, pack down				
Backup	Spare song if one falls flat				

5. Pitch log

Date	Place	Start and finish	Amp or acoustic	Tips ($)	What worked or what to change

Sources: council busking pages for Darwin, Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth, Adelaide, Hobart and Access Canberra, checked 16 November 2026. Full list and links at maximsguitarworkshop.com/busking_permit_australia. The kit and set plan are our suggestions from teaching and gigging experience, not council rules.