

Local government can have a role in approving a new business in Mudgee. Not widely known, certain business types such as food, health, personal services or even tattooing are regulated by council and require the submission of a Development Application (DA). Long thought of as simply being required for a new building or renovation, the DA can be required for new signage, a person considering taking over an existing business, changes to your business operations or hours and much more.

Your solicitor will give you the correct advice when establishing or purchasing a business, but good planning should see you searching the MWRC website for information or visiting Council's offices for planning advice about your business.

Not all businesses are affected by these regulations, and the purchase of a going concern may not require any approval by local government, but it makes sense to check first to avoid any bureaucratic grief at the critical stages of opening your doors for the first time. The business you are considering purchasing may be operating without appropriate consent or may have strict conditions imposed that you may not be aware of.

Signage is always an issue that has the potential for conflict with councils in NSW. Councils can determine what signs, size, colours, types, materials, placement and much more through local Development Control Plans (DCP) and the DCP is used to maintain a harmony with the local environment. However - as we've seen in our local council over the past couple of years, nothing is set in stone and a DCP can be interpreted, flexed or even completely ignored depending on who you speak to. If you believe that a decision has been made by a council officer is inappropriate or wrong or you think the processing of your DA is taking too long and is harming your business potential, you have the right to say so. Your solicitor can advise you on your rights with regards to DA's, signage and business development or you can approach the Councillor you voted for at the last election for assistance.

MBA members can download a PDF copy of MWRC's DCP for Signs from the Members' Section of the MBA website - www.MudgeeBusiness.com.au

