

What is a Temporary Home and do I need Council approval?

A 'temporary house' is a structure only intended to be lived in for a limited period. Temporary houses need approval and are considered on a case-by-case basis; however, they are generally only supported by Council when associated with constructing a permanent residence on the same site.

The occupation of a temporary house requires a permit to be issued under Local Law No. 1 (Administration) 2011. Temporary Permits cannot be extended.

What type of structure can I live in while building my house?

If Council approves a temporary house, this can be in the form of a caravan, donga, shed, or other structure providing sufficient amenities are available.

The temporary house will need to be removed from the property or fixtures dismantled or removed from the building or structure at the end of the approval period.

What do I need to do to establish or occupy a temporary house?

In order to establish or occupy a temporary house, you are required to obtain approval from Council.

You will need to complete an Application for Temporary House, and submit it to Council's Building Department with the relevant attachments in the application. This form can be found on Council's website or by visiting your local Customer Service Centre.

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Can I live in a caravan on my own property and not construct a dwelling?

No. According to Council's Local Laws, occupying a caravan outside of a camping ground or caravan park is an offence unless a Temporary House Permit has been issued.

Do I need approval to store my caravan on my property?

No, approval is not required to store a caravan or the like on a property. It is the owner or occupiers' responsibility to prove it is not being used as a place of residence.

What about Tiny Houses, do they need approval?

Yes. Tiny houses are treated the same as a 'standard' dwelling, providing permanent on-site accommodation. Building, plumbing and potentially planning approvals will be required.

It is recommended that you contact Council's Building and Planning team for further information on 1300 007 662.