What is a home-based activity?
Home-based activities include the following development types:

- Home occupations
- Home-based child care
- Home business
- Home industry
- Home occupation (sex services)
- Bed and breakfast accommodation

Home-based activities are low-impact activities that do not interfere with the amenity of the residential neighbourhood.

What qualifies as a home-based activity?
Home-based activities may include hairdressing, accountancy, bookkeeping, child care, commercial food preparation or bed and breakfast accommodation, just to name a few.

Each home-based activity is separately defined under Lake Macquarie Local Environmental Plan 2014 or State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008.

Is approval required for home-based activities?
Some home-based activities require development consent, others are complying development and some may not require consent at all.

Please refer to the individual home-based activity fact sheets.

Should you be satisfied your proposal is exempt development, no written approval or confirmation is required from Council. The onus is on the person proposing to carry out the land use to ensure they comply. Where a home based activity is not exempt or complying development, a development application will need to be lodged with Council.

Refer to the individual home based activity fact sheets to assist in identifying what type of approval is required.

Are you being a good neighbour?
If Council receives complaints regarding non-compliance, we may investigate further. Non-compliance may mean your proposal is not suitable as a home-based activity.

Developer contributions – section 94 contributions
Council levies for a wide range of development types, including home-based activity.

It is important to make contact with the Development Contribution team to establish if a section 94 levy applies to your proposal.

More information on Section 94 development contributions is available on our website or by contacting us on 4921 0333 or developmentcontributions@lakemac.nsw.gov.au

Fees
Submission of a development application must be accompanied by the development application fee. A development application fee estimate can be obtained by calling Council.  

Need help?
If you have any questions, please contact Council’s Duty Planner on 4921 0333 or email dutyplanner@lakemac.nsw.gov.au.

Disclaimer
This fact sheet provides a summary of key elements of a home-based activity. Any person using this document must do so on the basis that, not every scenario and issue can be addressed, and discussion with Council should be undertaken. This document is subject to change without notice.

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