

10.7. Alcohol Prohibited Signage 2023-2027

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ATTACHMENTS: Nil

PURPOSE:

To seek endorsement from Council to place on public exhibition the renewal of the current Alcohol-Free Zones and Alcohol Prohibited Areas for a further four years.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Council's current Alcohol-Free Zones (on streets) and Alcohol Prohibited Areas (in parks) are due to expire in November 2023. The purpose of this report is to place the program on public exhibition to allow for public comment. The proposed areas are unchanged from the past four years.

One feature of Council's successful management of these areas over the past 4 years has been a partnership between Council and Greenway Housing Estate, whose private drive and grassed central area are leased to Council for a "peppercorn". This enables (i) Council to manage non-tenant (commuter) parking, and (ii) the Police to monitor unauthorised use of the grounds, particularly on major event occasions.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There are approximately 80 signs that will require updating, with the estimated cost being \$20,000-\$23,000. This is currently unfunded and will need to be added to the 2023/24 budget. All maintenance costs for Greenway Drive and the grassed central area are borne by the Housing Manager, SGCH, who assumed management of the property in early 2019.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. THAT** the Alcohol Prohibited Areas in St Leonards Park, Christie Park, Cammeray Park, Bradfield Park, Weaver Park, Greenway Housing Estate and McMahons Point Community Centre be endorsed for public exhibition for a minimum period of 42 days.
- 2. THAT** the Alcohol-Free Zones in Sergeants Lane, St Leonards; North Sydney and Milsons Point; Kirribilli; McMahons Point; Cammeray Car Park; Greenway Housing Estate, and in the area adjacent to the Skate Plaza be endorsed for public exhibition for a minimum period of 42 days.
- 3. THAT** a further report be provided to Council following the conclusion of the public exhibition period, for the purpose of considering any submissions received and adopting the Alcohol Prohibited Areas and the Alcohol-Free Zones for 2023-2027.

LINK TO COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

The relationship with the Community Strategic Plan is as follows:

4. Our Social Vitality

4.1 North Sydney is connected, inclusive, healthy and safe

BACKGROUND

Alcohol Free Zones (AFZs) on streets and Alcohol Prohibited Areas in parks are established under Sections 644, 644A, and 644B, and Sections 632 and 632A respectively, of the Local Government Act, 1993. AFZs cannot be declared for more than 4 years and on establishment or renewal must be accompanied by public consultation, including with the local Police Command and Licensees in the affected areas.

Council's first Alcohol Free Zone was established in 1996 and encompassed an area from the harbour to Ridge Street. Since then, a number of additional Zones and Areas have been established. One Zone, Christie Street Reserve and Sergeants Lane, was established in co-operation with Willoughby Council. Another Zone and Area, Greenway Housing Estate, is leased to Council for a "peppercorn", expiring July 2021.

CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS

Community engagement will be undertaken in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Protocol.

DETAIL

While the establishment of Alcohol Prohibited Areas is not restricted in the same way as Alcohol-Free Zones (AFZs) nor are they time-restricted, Council has voluntarily adopted a process that enables public consultation on both categories at the same time, as it considers this to be in the interests of ready understanding and communication between the public and Police.

Councils can initiate establishment of AFZs, or an application can be received from:

1. a person representative of a community group active in the area;
2. a Police Officer; or
3. a person who lives or works in the area.