

8.7. New Year's Eve Alcohol Free Zones and Alcohol Prohibited Areas renewal

AUTHOR: Joanna Gibson, Team Leader Events

ENDORSED BY: Margaret Palmer, Director Corporate Services

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 01. Proposed Alcohol Managed Areas NYE 2021-2024 Maps FINAL [8.7.1 - 5 pages]

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to request the renewal of the expired New Year's Eve (NYE) Alcohol Free Zones and Alcohol Prohibited Areas that were last approved in 2017. Although confirmed plans for NYE 2021 have yet to be advised from the City of Sydney and the NSW Government, the latest advice at the time of writing is that the fireworks will be going ahead and that restrictions will be in place to manage the impacts of COVID-19, including fencing and ticketing. The approval of the Alcohol Free Zones and Prohibited Areas is therefore in preparation for the safe delivery of the event.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Alcohol Free Zones and Alcohol Prohibited Areas have assisted in managing the negative impacts of alcohol consumption on NYE. The NYE Special Event Alcohol Free Zones and Alcohol Prohibited Areas have expired and need to be renewed for the next four years from 2021 – 2024, the maximum time allowed under Ministerial guidelines.

This report requests the extension of the Alcohol Free Zones and Alcohol Prohibited Areas that were endorsed by Council on 26 June 2017 and also to clarify the definition and timing of NYE to be from 7am on 31 December – 7am on 1 January. This timing change will ensure the NYE Alcohol Free and Alcohol Prohibited Zones in place align to the timings of the Alcohol Free Zones and Alcohol Prohibited Areas in place year-round.

Alcohol Free Zones apply to streets and footpaths and are in force 24 hours a day. Alcohol can be carried not opened, but cannot be consumed in these zones. Alcohol Prohibited Areas apply to parks, plazas and car parks and the hours can be flexible. Alcohol cannot be taken into or consumed in these areas and may be confiscated or tipped out. The Alcohol Free Zones and Alcohol Prohibited Areas are to be established, respectively, under Sections 644, 644A and 644B of the Local Government Act 1993. The cost of renewing the signage has been factored into the 2021/2022 NYE budget.

The City of Sydney has taken back planning control for NYE 2021/2022 after temporary custodianship was given to the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC) late in 2020. The City of Sydney has yet to provide advice on the exact format of NYE celebrations for 2021, however, the advice received at the June Department of Premier and Cabinet Events Operation Group meeting was that the City is planning for the fireworks to go ahead with restrictions in place that may include fencing and ticketing.

The current COVID-19 outbreak in Sydney may change that advice in the coming months. Council will be advised when NYE plans have been confirmed detailing the impact that COVID-19 and Public Health Orders (PHO) will have on the delivery of the event in the North Sydney Local Government Area.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The cost to update Alcohol Prohibited Area and Alcohol Free signage is approximately \$6,000 and has been factored into the NYE 2021/22 budget.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** the 2017-2020 Alcohol Free Zones and Alcohol Prohibited Areas for NYE, with the amended definition and timing of NYE to be from 7am, 31 December – 7am, 1 January, to be placed on Public Exhibition for 28 days and licensed venues in the affected areas notified.
2. **THAT** if no submissions are received then the NYE Alcohol Free Zones and Alcohol Prohibited Areas renewals will be implemented for NYE 2021 - 2024. If submissions are received these will be reviewed and a further report submitted to Council if required.

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

4.2 North Sydney is creative and home to popular events

BACKGROUND

NYE Alcohol Free Zones and Alcohol Prohibited Areas:

Alcohol Free Zones and Alcohol Prohibited Areas have assisted in managing the negative impacts of alcohol consumption on NYE. This report outlines a request to renew the expired NYE Special Event Alcohol Free Zones and Alcohol Prohibited Areas for 2021 - 2024.

Alcohol Free Zones and Alcohol Prohibited Areas can be established for a maximum of four years under Ministerial guidelines, but councils can review the Zones and Areas at any time.

Alcohol Free Zones apply to streets and footpaths and are in force 24 hours a day. Alcohol can be carried unopened, but cannot be consumed in these zones. Alcohol Prohibited Areas apply to parks, plazas and car parks and the hours can be flexible. Alcohol cannot be taken into or consumed in these areas and may be confiscated or tipped out.

The Alcohol Free Zones and Alcohol Prohibited Areas are to be established, respectively, under Sections 644, 644A and 644B of the Local Government Act 1993.

At its meeting of 26 June 2017, Council resolved that:

- 1. THAT the 2012-2016 Alcohol Free Zones and Alcohol Prohibited Areas for NYE shown on the maps provided be renewed for 2017-2020.*
- 2. THAT an extension to the NYE Alcohol Prohibited Areas (parks) be established for 2017-2020 in Beulah Street Reserve, Sawmillers Reserve, the western side of Blues Point Reserve and Waverton Park.*
- 3. THAT an extension to the NYE Alcohol Free Zones (streets) be established, for 2017-2020 on Larkin Street, Waverton, and Lavender Crescent, Lavender Bay.*
- 4. THAT the areas described in the report be placed on Public Exhibition and that licensed venues in the affected area be notified.*

CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS

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

After preparing a proposal to establish an Alcohol Free Zone a council is required to undertake a public consultation process. The process under the Act involves all of the following:

1. Publish a notice of the proposal in a newspaper circulating in the area of the proposed Alcohol Free Zone, allow inspection of the proposal and invite representations or objections within 30 days from the date of publication. The notice should state the exact location of the proposed Alcohol Free Zone, and the Ministerial Guidelines on Alcohol Free Zones
2. Send a copy of the proposal to:
 - a) the Police Local Area Commander and the officer in charge of the police station within or nearest to the proposed zone,
 - b) liquor licenses and secretaries of registered clubs whose premises border on, or adjoin or are adjacent to, the proposed zone, and invite representations or objections within 30 days from the date of sending the copy of the proposal, AND
3. Send a copy of the proposal to the NSW Anti-Discrimination Board, if the local area is listed in Appendix 2 to these Guidelines, and invite representations or objections within 30 days from the date of sending the copy of the proposal. Other councils have the option of advising the Board if they wish to seek the Board's views on the proposed alcohol-free zone.

In addition to these statutory requirements there are other consultative avenues that may enhance the effectiveness of any Alcohol Free Zone that is subsequently established.

Accordingly, a Council is also required to:

4. Send a copy of the proposal to any known organisation representing or able to speak on behalf of an identifiable Aboriginal or culturally and linguistically diverse group within the local area and invite representations or objections within 30 days from the date of sending the copy of the proposal.

A Council is to give proper consideration to any representations, submissions or objections received and as a result may amend or withdraw a proposal to establish an Alcohol Free Zone. However, any amendment that extends the location of the proposed zone must be supported by reasons (as outlined above).

As per Council's Community Engagement Protocol the maps and areas of the 'Special Event' NYE Alcohol Free Zones and Alcohol Prohibited Areas will be placed on public exhibition and licensed venues in the areas will be notified.

In preparing a proposal to establish an Alcohol-Free Zone a council must consult with the relevant Police Local Area Commander about the appropriate number and location of Alcohol Free Zones.

DETAIL

NYE 2021/22

The City of Sydney funds, produces and delivers the yearly NYE fireworks display and entertainment on Sydney Harbour. The event is broadcast globally. Crowd Management, Security Management, Traffic and Transport management, the delivery of operational and

logistical requirements is supported by multiple state and local government agencies. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic up to one million people viewed the fireworks live from the Sydney Harbour foreshore and an estimated one billion watched the broadcast.

In September 2020 due to the uncertainty surrounding COVID-19 custodianship of the NYE event was handed from City of Sydney to the NSW DPC to plan and deliver the event. On 2 October 2020, Council wrote to Tim Reardon, Secretary of the DPC, asking him to confirm that the DPC would take responsibility for managing NYE in the North Sydney LGA as it was doing in the City of Sydney. Mr Reardon responded to Council on 17 November and advised that the DPC will be implementing a suite of measures for NYE that include fencing most foreshore parks and reserves and closing them to public access, closing roads and undertaking a strong communications campaign advising people to celebrate at home.

On 31 May 2021 during the monthly DPC Event Operations Group meeting it was confirmed that the City of Sydney had taken back control and planning of the NYE celebrations. Operational and creative updates are expected from the City of Sydney in late July 2021.

The pandemic has changed the way that events are designed and managed, in particular major outdoor events.

At the time of writing of this report, COVID-19 restrictions and a stay-at-home direction are in place for Greater Sydney. Prior to the stay-at-home direction, which was instated on Friday 25 June, Public Health (COVID-19 Gathering Restrictions) Order (No 2) 2021 was in force, with a scheduled end date of 30 August 2021. The PHO directs organisers of outdoor public gatherings and events on the maximum number of participants allowed, COVID-19 safety plan requirements, directions regarding contact tracing and record keeping for all participants.

The purpose of the NYE Alcohol Free Zones and Alcohol Prohibited Areas are to assist in managing the negative impacts of alcohol consumption on NYE. Operating as part of North Sydney Council's strategy of Managed Access for NYE, restricting the presence of alcohol within public places during the event assists in reducing injuries from the presence of broken glass in reserves, widespread intoxication, and under-age drinking. Overall, Alcohol Free Zones and Alcohol Prohibited Areas go a long way in creating a safe event environment.

To plan for the safe management of the North Sydney vantage points in the case that the NYE fireworks will proceed for 2021/22 this report requests the renewal of the expired NYE Alcohol Free Zones and Alcohol Prohibited Areas that were approved in 2017. For the purpose of the renewal, New Year's Eve is defined to conclude at 7am on 1 January which will align with the NYE Alcohol Free Zones and Alcohol Prohibited Areas that are in place year-round. The cost of renewing the signage for four years is \$6,000. This has been considered in the NYE budget. Day labour is used to erect and dismantle NYE additional temporary signage.

During July, COVID-19 restrictions and a stay-at-home direction is in place for Greater Sydney and all major events during this period have been cancelled or postponed to a later date.

Based on the prior PHO and advice from the DPC at the last Events Operation Group meeting, it is likely that all vantage points for NYE will need to be fenced and ticketed. As a result, the North Sydney vantage points may require additional infrastructure, contact tracing protocols and staffing to manage the four ticketed vantage points in 2019. Consideration must be also

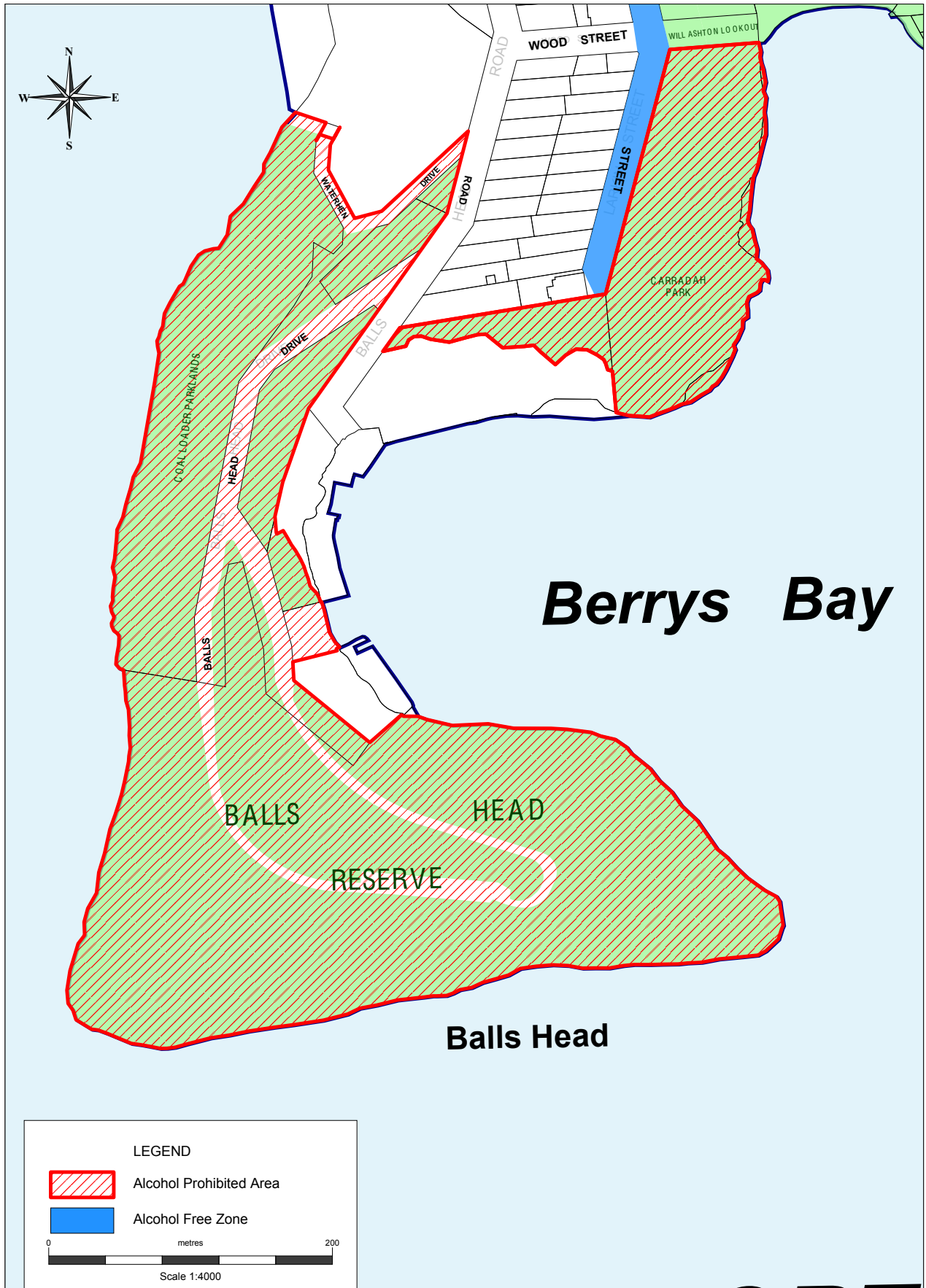
given for the resources required to safely manage the remaining sites. Council will be advised once details have been confirmed outlining the impacts and necessary requirements for NYE.

Alcohol Managed Areas related to New Years Eve 2021-2024 (North Sydney, Kirribilli, Milsons Point, Lavender Bay & McMahons Point)

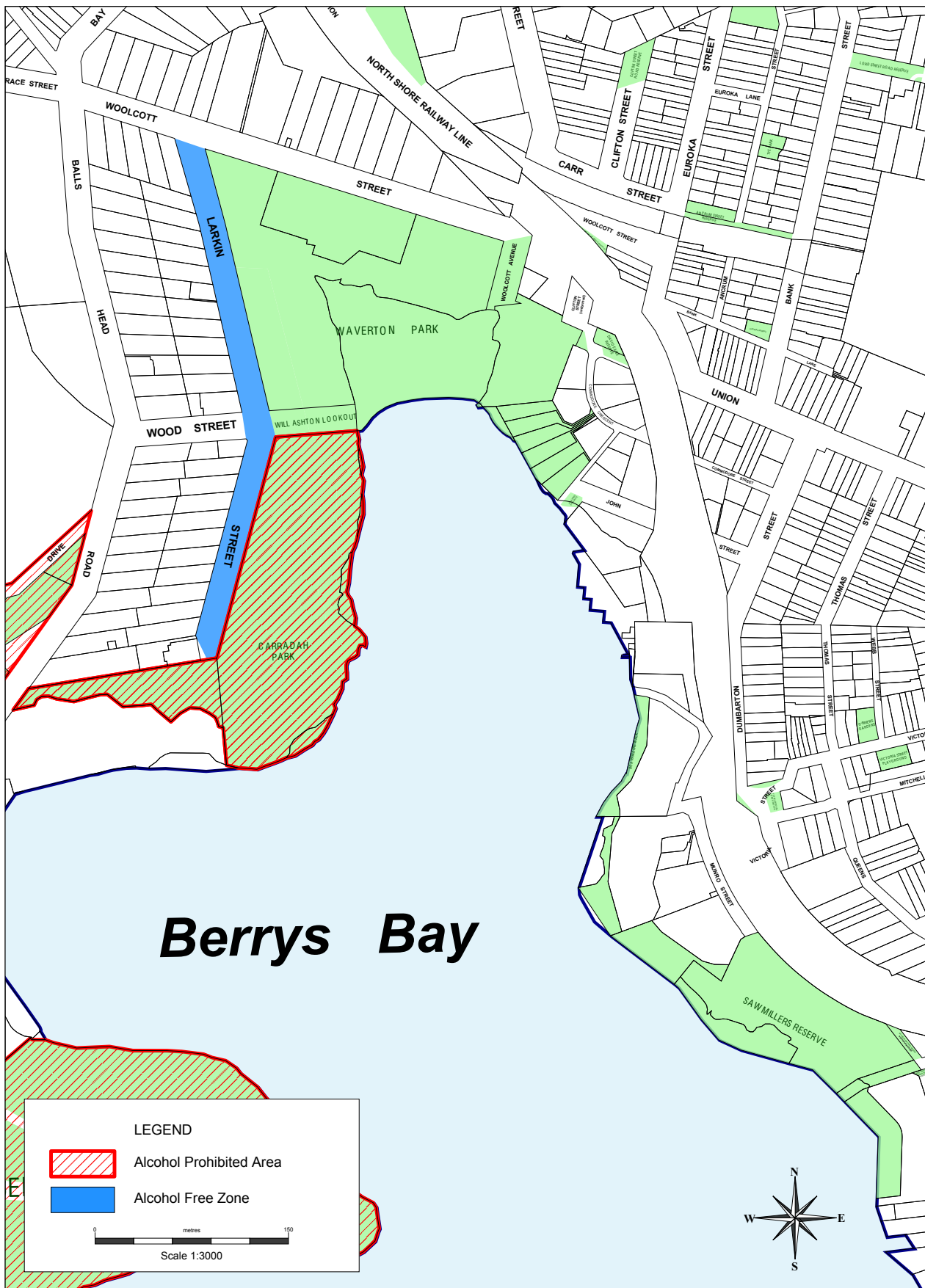


alcohol managed areas various_nye 2021-2024.swd

Balls Head & Carradah Park - New Years Eve 2021-2024

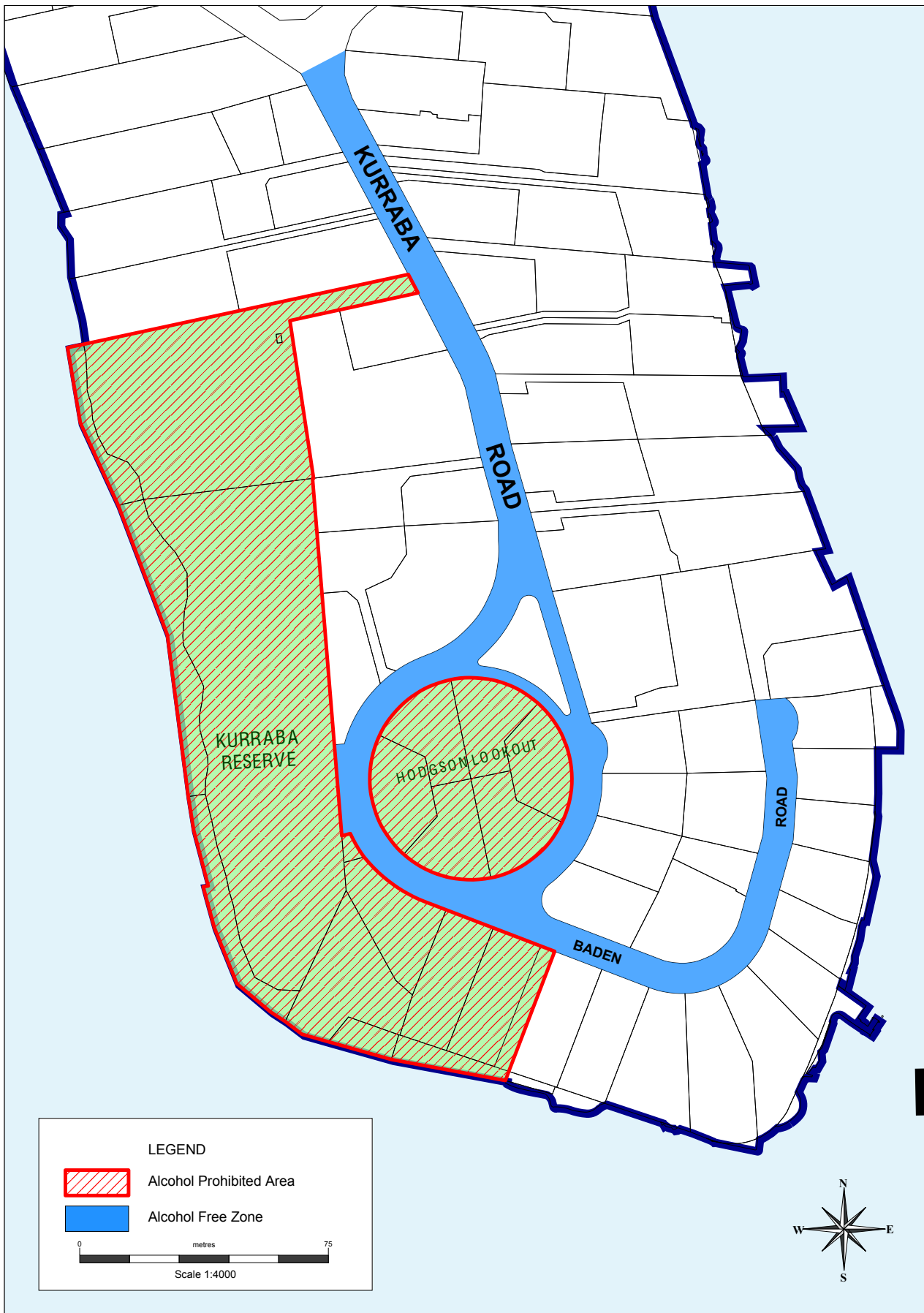


Carradah Park, Waverton Park & Sawmillers Reserve - New Years Eve 2021-2024



carradah park and waverton park_nye 2021-2024.swd

Kurraba Point - New Years Eve 2021-2024



kurraba_point_nye 2021-2024.swd

Alcohol Managed Areas related to New Years Eve 2021-2024 (Cremorne Point)

