

## Relevant Information for Council

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**FILE:** X008630 **DATE:** 21 June 2024

**TO:** Lord Mayor and Councillors

**FROM:** Emma Rigney, Director City Life

**THROUGH:** Monica Barone PSM, Chief Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** Information Relevant To Item 10.3 – Public Exhibition - Review of Outdoor Alcohol Restrictions

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### Purpose

To provide further information for Item 10.3 - Public Exhibition - Review of Outdoor Alcohol Restrictions in relation to the criteria and data used to inform the proposed outdoor alcohol restrictions for public exhibition.

To provide an Alternative Resolution, should Council wish to further reduce the proposed alcohol-free zones and alcohol-prohibited areas that will be placed on public exhibition.

### Background

At the meeting of the Resilient Communities and Economy Committee on 17 June 2024, further information was sought on the criteria for the proposed alcohol-free zones and alcohol-prohibited areas and consideration as to a further reduction of those areas was requested.

When developing the list of proposed alcohol-free zones and alcohol-prohibited areas on City streets and public spaces to be placed on public exhibition. City staff ensured that the area meets one or more of the following criteria:

1. Late Night Management Area (as defined by the Development Control Plan).
2. Locations with high incidents of alcohol-related crime and assaults (including domestic violence) – these were identified using NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research crime data for alcohol-related (24hr) assaults for 2023.
3. Areas of concerns as identified through the review – this includes locations on land owned by Homes NSW, such as Waterloo Green, Tom Uren Place and Poet's Corner.

4. Resident applications for new alcohol-free zones– the City is required to place on public exhibition all valid applications received for alcohol-free zones.
5. Internal advice from various City business units– there are several locations within the City where there are ongoing issues with waste and broken glass including Hyde Park, Belmore Park, Wynard Park, Wentworth Park, Prince Alfred Park and Woolloomooloo.
6. Childrens Playgrounds, sports fields and state-significant sites that are managed by the City (for example, war memorials and churches).

Staff have reviewed the recommended areas following the discussion at the meeting of the Resilient Communities and Economy Committee. Noting the criteria that are set out above, staff recommend that the proposed areas as set out in Attachment A to the Information Relevant to the Resilient Communities and Economy Committee memorandum from the Director City Life, dated 14 June 2024, be placed on exhibition without amendment, in order to allow the community to provide feedback and comment ahead of further consideration by Council . This is consistent with the recommendations in the Urbis report. Staff do not recommend any further reduction of the proposed areas at this stage ahead of the public exhibition process.

However, noting the request by Councillors to further reduce the areas for consideration, an alternative list of proposed areas which applies only to the following criteria is provided:

1. Locations with high incidents of alcohol-related crime and assaults (including domestic violence) – these were identified using NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research crime data for alcohol-related (24hr) assaults for 2023.
2. Areas of concern as identified through the review – this includes locations on land owned by Homes NSW, such as Waterloo Green, Tom Uren Place and Poet’s Corner.
3. Resident applications for new alcohol-free zones – the City is required to place on public exhibition all valid applications received for alcohol-free zones.

The total number of existing areas is 428. This was reduced to a total number of 314 as proposed at Committees on Monday 17 June 2024. These included new resident and business applications. The alternative resolution reduces this further to 236 (including new resident and business applications).

Any area not included in the upcoming public exhibition process will no longer be subject to restrictions from 20 August 2024. If the alternative resolution is passed this will include all children’s playgrounds and sports fields that are not included in items 1-3 above.

## Alternative Resolution

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council approve the 30-day public exhibition of the list of proposed alcohol-free zones and alcohol-prohibited areas on City streets and public spaces for a four year period as outlined in ~~Attachment B to the subject report~~ **Attachment A to the subject Information Relevant To memorandum**;
- (B) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to:
  - (i) write to the NSW Office of Local Government requesting the 2009 Ministerial Guidelines on Alcohol-free zones be revised to include provision for local governments to establish alcohol-free zones as timed sites where alcohol consumption is permissible within designated times as appropriate;
  - (ii) advocate to NSW Health and Homes NSW to work with social housing residents to develop and implement harm minimisation measures that improve the community's health and safety;
  - (iii) write to Homes NSW to take on responsibility and management of outdoor alcohol restrictions on their own land;
  - (iv) write to the Commissioner of the NSW Police Force to request NSW Police provide data on the use of enforcement under outdoor alcohol restrictions to inform the development and implementation of harm minimisation approaches to alcohol management within the community;
  - (v) write to NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics to notify them of those locations where outdoor alcohol restrictions have been removed and request they develop a methodology to appropriately assess the outcomes arising from those removals; and,
  - (vi) continue to work with community legal centres, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisations, community groups, social housing residents, local business and NSW Government agencies to determine appropriate strategies for managing alcohol consumption in the public domain.

## Memo from Emma Rigney, Director City Life

Prepared by: Julie Giuffre, Manager City Business and Safety

**Attachments**

**Attachment A.** Revised List of Outdoor Alcohol Restrictions for Public Exhibition

**Attachment B.** Revised Map of Outdoor Alcohol Restrictions for Public Exhibition – By Type

**Attachment C.** Revised List of Outdoor Alcohol Restrictions Expiring 20 August 2024

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Approved

*P. M. Barone*

**MONICA BARONE PSM**

Chief Executive Officer