Report of Community to the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Monday 19 June 2017

CO1 – Re-establishment of Alcohol Free Zones and Information on Alcohol Prohibited Areas

COMMUNITY

CO1 Re-establishment of Alcohol Free Zones and Information on Alcohol Prohibited Areas

271 TRIM 5026

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information on the proposed re-establishment of Alcohol Free Zones and to inform Council about the existing Alcohol Prohibited Areas across the Shire.
- As required by the relevant provisions of the Local Government Act 1993 and Ministerial Guidelines, Council is required to regularly review the Alcohol Free Zones, and undertake a specific consultation process to confirm, reduce or extend the restrictions.
- This report recommends that the proposal for the re-establishment of Alcohol Free Zones be placed on Public Exhibition for 28 days to allow for community input prior to being brought back to Council for adoption.
- This report recommends that the current Alcohol Prohibited Areas as listed are maintained.

REPORT

BACKGROUND

Alcohol Free Zones (AFZs):

The principal object of an Alcohol Free Zone (AFZ) is to improve public safety by preventing disorderly behaviour caused by the consumption of alcohol in public areas. Public areas including public roads, footpaths or public car parks may be included in a zone.

An AFZ may be established for a maximum period of four years. Once established they apply twenty four hours per day. Council must erect a sign at the outer limits of the zone and at suitable intervals within the zone.

Alcohol Free Zones are established under the relevant provisions of the Local Government Act 1993 and Ministerial Guidelines.

On 12 December 2011, Wollondilly Shire Council resolved to implement AFZs for a period of four years from December 2011 to December 2015 in the areas marked on the attached maps.

The process now needs to be implemented to re-establish the Alcohol Free Zones across the Shire from June 2017- June 2021.



Report of Community to the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Monday 19 June 2017

CO1 – Re-establishment of Alcohol Free Zones and Information on Alcohol Prohibited Areas

Alcohol Prohibited Areas (APAs):

An Alcohol Prohibited Area is a public place or part of a public place such as a park or reserve that has been established by Council and where the consumption of alcohol is prohibited.

Section 632A (4) of the Local Government Act enables Councils to declare any public place or part of a place to be an Alcohol Prohibited Area, except those places (public roads, footpaths and car parks) which are to be dealt with under the Alcohol Free Zones provisions of the Act. Alcohol Prohibited Areas are not established under the Ministerial Guidelines, they are established under the Local Government Act 1993 and therefore are under the delegation of the General Manager. Once Alcohol Prohibited Areas are established they cannot be removed unless the General Manager removes this declaration.

On 12 December 2011, Wollondilly Shire Council resolved to implement APAs from 8pm to 6am in the areas marked on the attached maps.

CONSULTATION

Under the Local Government Act 1993 and the Ministerial Guidelines, Council must undertake a consultation process to decide if the re-establishment of the AFZs is appropriate. This consultation includes:

Public exhibition for 28 days to invite community feedback

The proposal will be placed on public exhibition via Council's website, social media pages, engage.wollondilly and with hard copies viewable in the main Council Office and the library. A media campaign will also be launched to encourage feedback from the community and to inform the community about the locations of exhibition.

Consultation with Police NSW

Preliminary discussions have taken place with the Licensing Officers at the three Local Area Commands - Campbelltown, Camden and St. Mary's and they all support the re-establishment of the Alcohol Free Zones.

Consultation with the Local Liquor Accord

Awareness has been raised of the expiration of the AFZs and this will be discussed further on the meeting on 31 May 2017.

Consultation with other key stakeholders

Local licenced premises, local clubs and Tharawal Local Aboriginal Land Council will be consulted.



Report of Community to the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Monday 19 June 2017

CO1 – Re-establishment of Alcohol Free Zones and Information on Alcohol Prohibited Areas

When considering the reinstatement of an alcohol-free zone Council needs to consider:

- What were the factors which originally supported a zoning in that area?
- How successful was the previous alcohol-free zone in achieving a reduction in acceptable street drinking?
- What do Police statistics indicate about the value of re-instating an alcohol free zone in that area?
- What other measures may need to be considered (e.g. a community education program) if unacceptable street drinking is still of concern in that area?
- Has the community's perceptions of safety improved?

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The signage for the previous expired AFZs is still in place across the Shire. It is proposed that this signage would continue to be utilised by amending the applicable dates. The estimated cost of these signage adjustments is approximately \$3,000 which is budgeted for within existing operating budgets.

ATTACHMENTS INCLUDED IN A SEPARATE BOOKLET

- 1. Alcohol Free Zones Proposal 2017
- 2. Alcohol Free Zones Table Listing
- 3. Alcohol Free Zones Maps
- 4. Alcohol Prohibited Areas Maps
- 5. Community Feedback Form

RECOMMENDATION

That the proposal for the re-establishment of Alcohol Free Zones be placed on Public Exhibition for 28 days to allow for community input prior to being brought back to Council for adoption.

