

City Of Port Phillip Alcohol Action Plan (2008-2013)

Introduction

Council has initiated and supported many activities to reduce alcohol-related harm in our community and recognises that there is more that can be done. We want to maintain the City of Port Phillip's reputation as one of Australia's most exciting nightlife destinations, but we also want to reduce the negative impact alcohol has on our residents, businesses and visitors. Our main focus is the development of strategies that will:

- ◆ Reduce violence
- ◆ Improve the amenity for residents (e.g., less alcohol-related waste, vandalism and noise)
- ◆ Reduce the negative health impacts of alcohol; and
- ◆ Safeguard the local economy and the cultural & entertainment life of the city

Alcohol is a complex issue that requires the coordinated support of many participants. The areas that Council has most impact on are:

- a) Building, Planning and Infrastructure
- b) Coordinating Shared Responsibility for Reducing Alcohol-related Harm
- c) Cleaning
- d) Local Laws

Other issues are the primary responsibility of the:

- ◆ **State Government** (e.g., policing, public transport, liquor licensing permits, alcohol counselling and withdrawal services, schools, lock-out trials, alcohol taxation, minimum purchasing age, regulating alcohol promotion, law reform)
- ◆ **Federal Government** (e.g., alcohol taxation, regulating alcohol promotion, law reform)
- ◆ **Licensees** (e.g., creating a safe environment for their patrons, responsible service of alcohol, venue security, reducing the impact of noise and disruption on neighbours)
- ◆ **Patrons** (e.g., abiding by the law and being responsible for the effects of their behaviour on others)

This action plan will continue for 5 years to provide a solid block of time to develop the interventions and bring its timing into line with the Victorian Alcohol Action Plan. The actions listed are those that will be progressed during the 2008-2009 financial year. It will be evaluated and upgraded annually.

Guiding Principles:

The work outlined in the Action Plan rests upon the following principles outlined in the City of Port Phillip Nightlife Policy:

- I. Harm minimisation, collaboration, partnerships and holistic approaches guide our response to improve the management of our entertainment precincts. We will invest heavily in building trusting and supportive relationships between all stakeholders;
- II. Recognize and support the City of Port Phillip Liquor Licensee's accord as a major influence and partner in achieving better outcomes for all;
- III. Best practice standard planning conditions will continue to be developed and promoted to assist owners to take a preventative approach to noise and other issues;
- IV. Acknowledge that behavioural change cannot wholly be achieved by legislation and promote the (behavioural responsibilities of patrons in and around licensed venues;
- V. Promote a mix of retail, culture and entertainment late into the night which attracts a diverse range of groups through the adoption of structure plans for each activity area which address the clustering of particular uses such as bars and nightclubs;
- VI. Ensure safe urban design and provision of amenities, especially lighting and public toilets;
- VII. Promote and support initiatives with the State government such as Safe Taxi ranks and public transport solutions after midnight particularly on weekends and public holidays;
- VIII. Ensure a coordinated and compassionate response to critical incidents that enables strengthened prevention strategies that are within our realm of influence
- IX. Acknowledge the positive contribution that evening and late night uses make to the economic health and cultural vitality of our city. Our policy aims to enhance these positives and minimize any negative impacts on residential amenity.

1. Building, planning & infrastructure		
Action	Timeframe	Responsibility
1.1. Advocate for public transport to operate later into the night	July 2008 – June 2009	Environment & Renewal
1.2. Continue to monitor whether taxi ranks meet local demand in entertainment precincts and work with the Taxi Directorate to make adjustments whenever possible	July 2008 – June 2009	Environment & Renewal
1.3. Install more public toilets in areas of high demand. This will commence with new toilets in the Fitzroy St precinct.	July 2008 – June 2009	Asset Services
1.4. Council will continue to work with other Victorian and Australian councils, including those involved in the Inner Melbourne Action Plan (IMAP), Inner South Metropolitan Mayors' Forum (ISMMF) and the National Local Government Drug and Alcohol Advisory Committee (NLGDAAC), to progress the development of effective Licensed Premises Policies.	July 2008 – June 2009	City Development, Community Development
1.5. The success of existing Licensed Premises Policies will be monitored and reviewed over the next 12 months.	July 2008 – June 2009	City Development
1.6. This review will be used to establish a strategic basis for determining any cumulative impacts of licensed venues and inform Council's approach to incorporating a Licensed Premises Policy within its planning scheme. Progress will be presented at a Council briefing in May 2009.	May 2009	City Development
1.7. A subsequent report will be prepared for the Ordinary meeting of Council in October 2009, detailing findings of the review of the success of the existing Licensed Premises Policies including a recommendation as to whether or not to prepare an amendment to its planning scheme to incorporate a Licensed Premises Policy.	October 2009	City Development
1.8. Improve the consistency between planning, liquor licensing and kerbside dining controls	April 2009	Economic Development
1.9. Complete the trial of a Safe Taxi Rank in Fitzroy Street	December 2008	Economic Development
1.10. Complete the first stage of lighting improvements in the Fitzroy Street precinct	July 2008 – June 2009	Environment & Renewal
1.11. Improve the amenity of the South Melbourne entertainment precinct and surrounds via progressing the implementation of the South Melbourne master plans	July 2008 – June 2009	Environment & Renewal

2. Coordinating shared community responsibility for reducing alcohol-related harm		
Action	Timeframe	Responsibility
2.1. Continue to support the management of City of Port Phillip's Liquor Licensees Accord	July 2008 – June 2009	Community Development
2.2. Continue to assist with the organisation of Responsible Serving of Alcohol training and VenueSafe training (a program to reduce anti-social behaviours and alcohol related violence in and around licensed premises) for local bar staff through the City of Port Phillip's Liquor Licensees Accord.	July 2008 – June 2009	Community Development
2.3. Continue to support local services who provide treatment and intervention to residents with alcohol problems	July 2008 – June 2009	Community Development
2.4. Continue to provide community education sessions and forums on alcohol, as part of the work of the Local Drug Strategy.	Commencing September 11, 2008	Community Development
2.5. Continue to review and improve protocols and service integration with Victoria Police	July 2008 – June 2009	Health & Amenity
2.6. Research the current best practice guidelines for operating licensed venues and surrounding areas and incorporate them into the St Kilda Triangle site operating and management plan.	July 2008 – June 2010	Environment & Renewal
2.7. Continue to bring together representatives from local health and welfare providers, Victoria Police and the general public to address local drug and alcohol issues through the Drugs Roundtable	July 2008 – June 2009	Community Development
2.8. Participate in the work of the St Kilda Social Inclusion Project, which will provide opportunities to improve the health, wellbeing and social integration of the most disadvantaged members of the St Kilda & East St Kilda communities (including many chronic street drinkers).	September 2008 – June 2009	Community Development
2.9. Continue to represent Victorian Local Governments on the National Local Government Drug & Alcohol Advisory Committee	July 2008 – June 2009	Mayor & Community Development
2.10. Continue to respond to and advocate for Inner City Entertainment Precinct Taskforce recommendations. This includes a transfer to the Inner Melbourne Action Plan wherever appropriate - particularly those recommendations regarding definitions under the Planning & Environment Act, and development of a planning model to address cumulative impact considerations.	July 2008 – June 2009	Health & Amenity
2.11. Wherever possible, support the implementation of the State Government's Victorian Alcohol Action Plan (2008-2013) initiatives that provide additional state-wide services (e.g., extended-stay withdrawal, involuntary detention, community corrections program, early-intervention program) and community education.	July 2008 – June 2009	All of Council

3. Cleaning

Action	Timeframe	Responsibility
3.1. Continue to monitor street cleaning needs of entertainment precincts and make adjustments whenever possible	July 2008 – June 2009	Infrastructure Services
3.2. Provide an extra street cleaning shift daily in the St Kilda entertainment precinct from 12 noon to 7pm from November 1 to April 30	Nov 2008 – April 2009	Infrastructure Services
3.3. Expand the evening waste collection program when the forecast temperature is 25 degrees or above.	July 2008 – June 2009	Infrastructure Services

4. Local laws		
Action	Timeframe	Responsibility
4.1. Ensure that premises with liquor licenses comply with all local law, planning and health requirements	July 2008 – June 2009	Health & Amenity
4.2. Continue to liaise with and support the work of Victoria Police in enforcing planning controls and local laws and responding to other amenity related complaints (e.g., noise).	July 2008 – June 2009	City Development / Health & Amenity
4.3. Council to continue to work with Victoria Police to establish and enforce 'best practice' management conditions into liquor licenses deemed to be in the 'high risk' category.	July 2008 – June 2009	Health & Amenity
4.4. Present a report as an Order of the Day to the meeting of Council on Monday 22 September 2008 that considers commencement of the processes necessary under Part 5 of the Local Government Act 1989 to amend Cl 45(3)(c) of the Community Amenity Local Law No 3 to prescribe that a designated area prohibiting consumption or possession of alcohol shall apply at any time on a road or Council land between the hours of 8 pm and 9 am the following day.	September 2008	Health & Amenity
4.5. Council will continue to ban public alcohol consumption during special events such as the St Kilda Festival, Grand Prix and New Year's Eve.	December 2008 – April 2009	Health & Amenity
4.6. Council will maintain an awareness of and continue to participate in various regulatory reforms implemented by the State Government as part of the Victorian Alcohol Action Plan (2008-2013). These include enhanced enforcement of liquor related legislation; new measures to prevent drink-driving; a new assault reduction strategy; reviews of the responsibilities of licensees and venue staff; advertising restrictions and the implementation of the Safe Streets program.	July 2008 – June 2009	All of Council

5. Evaluation & Planning

Action	Timeframe	Responsibility
5.1. Develop a suite of performance indicators	February 2009	Managers of Community Development & Planning
5.2. Evaluate the CoPP Alcohol Action Plan Annually	June 2009	Managers of Community Development & Planning
5.3. Communicate the evaluation findings and recommendations for change with key stakeholders, such as Victoria Police, the State Government Department of Justice, Liquor Licensees Accord and Drugs Roundtable annually.	September 2009	Community Development
5.4. Provide advice to Council annually on the implementation of the CoPP Alcohol Action Plan	September 2009	Community Development