

Attachment Four

OBSERVATIONS FROM OFFICERS IN THE FIELD

Sport and Recreation Officer:

“On Australia Day weekend, I observed that the open spaces I visited (St Kilda Botanic Gardens, foreshore, etc.) were very family friendly, with a broad diversity of people enjoying casual social functions in a safe and inclusive environment. Our spaces were generally quiet, safe and enjoyable, but still a great social vibe that was very enjoyable for all.”

Local Laws Officer:

“Over the period of the ban Local Laws Officers were informed by many beachgoers that they were delighted with Council’s stance and that they felt safe on the foreshore due to the ban. It was evident that the ban had encouraged families back to the foreshore area and after several weeks the numbers of people 18 to 30 dropped off in the “Ban Area”. Compliance on first level of engagement was approximately 95 % and those spoken to ceased drinking or left the area.”

Foreshore Officer

“Since the alcohol controls tool has been put in place there have been no further amenity impacts or damage to Council assets. I have repeatedly observed over the period a greater variety of ages and visitors along the foreshore during the day and into the evening with a perception of improved safety.”

Events Officer:

“I regularly attend the St Kilda Twilight Market and other events along the foreshore over summer. In the month of January, I decided to walk with my dog and young family along the boardwalk and up to West Beach. I noticed that since the alcohol bans have been introduced on the beach there are less large groups gathering and more families enjoying the beach. The beach area feels safer and looks cleaner.”

Summer Rangers

Reported observations:

- A slight decrease in incidence of large gatherings and especially with large amounts of alcohol being consumed (from approx. once a fortnight last year to only 1-2 this summer)
- Overall positive feedback from the community regarding the ban
- General opinion from foreshore users that the ban had created a 'safer' and 'calmer' environment. This was particularly strong with families and older users.