



<b>8.3</b>	<b>PETITION RESPONSE - PUBLIC DRINKING IN CARLISLE STREET</b>
<b>WARD:</b>	<b>WHOLE OF MUNICIPALITY</b>
<b>GENERAL MANAGER:</b>	<b>VANESSA SCHERNICKAU, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT</b>
<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	<b>SHARYN COX, SENIOR HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY OFFICER</b>
<b>TRIM FILE NO:</b>	<b>42/11/133</b>
<b>ATTACHMENTS:</b>	<b>1. Victoria Police Community Safety Forum - Carlisle Street June 2017 - Record Notes</b> <b>2. Data Relating to Alcohol Related Harm in Port Phillip</b> <b>3. Stakeholder Workshop Public Drinking Record with Participants</b> <b>4. Public Drinking Local Laws in Metro Councils</b>

**PURPOSE**

- To respond to the petition received on Friday 7 July from Igor and Rosie Vainer and 809 signatories from the Carlisle Street Shopping Village requesting a change to the local law.
- To present Council with recommendations for responding to the consumption of alcohol in public places.

**I. RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. Notes that the existing Local Law No.1 includes provisions for the nomination of time and places to restrict the public consumption of alcohol. It is not necessary to change Local Law No. 1. The City of Port Phillip Procedures and Protocols Manual can be amended to effect change.
2. Amends the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Port Phillip and Victoria Police titled Alcohol Restrictions in Public Places (2009) to:
  - 2.1. Continue the agreement that Victoria Police officers enforce the provisions of the Local Law No 1 with regard to the consumption of alcohol in public places,
  - 2.2. Add stipulations that Victoria Police are strongly encouraged to utilise ‘tip out’, treatment referral and warning response options rather than fines and powers of arrest that may further disadvantage vulnerable residents and visitors, and
  - 2.3. Support the evaluation of strategies to reduce the impact of public drinking.
3. Leads the development of a multidisciplinary agency response, involving Victoria Police and alcohol and other drug agencies, to increase access for individuals who consume alcohol in public places to health and social inclusion services.



4. Designs and implements future street work improvements in accordance with Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles that consider how physical public spaces can improve both perceptions of safety and reduce opportunistic crime.
5. Implements a community messaging campaign to increase community understanding, especially for visitors to the City of Port Phillip, improving understanding of local public drinking laws.
6. Undertakes evaluation of strategies responding to public drinking. This evaluation will report to Council in 12 months with interim findings and final report for consideration in two years.
7. Introduces a two year trial extending the restrictions on the consumption of alcohol from all streets and roads at all times of the day and night for the City of Port Phillip. The trial would exempt situations for which there is a permitted event, including festivals and street parties. Existing special provisions for St Kilda Festival, Australian Formula 1 Grand Prix, New Year's Eve, Australia Day and surrounding the St Kilda Skate Park will remain. The consumption of alcohol in other public spaces, including parks, between the hours of 9am – 8pm will continue to be allowed.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1. Consumption of alcohol is controlled under the City of Port Phillip Local Law No.1. (Community Amenity). The restriction time and nominated places are detailed in the City of Port Phillip Procedures and Protocols Manual 2013. It is an offence to consume alcohol or have an open container on a road or on Council land between the hours of 8pm and 9am.
- 2.2. The City of Port Phillip has a Memorandum of Understanding with Victoria Police (signed 2009) which provides an agreement that Victoria Police members will respond to complaints of intoxicated persons on the street and enforce the alcohol provisions of the Port Phillip Local Law No. 1 (Community Amenity). Council Officers do not provide this enforcement role.
- 2.3. In November 2013, Council received a petition with 433 signatories requesting amendment of Council's policy on the consumption of alcohol in public places on Carlisle Street, St Kilda. The petition was raised to "address the increased safety risk to businesses, its staff and customers from the perception of groups of intoxicated people".
- 2.4. In response to the 2013 petition, Council officers proposed an initiative to activate Carlisle Street shopping strip. This included a range of activities as well as a six-month trial to amend the Local Law 1 to designate 24 hour alcohol free areas along Carlisle Street. Council endorsed the activation initiative, however, this did not include the introduction of the six-month trial prohibiting street drinking.
- 2.5. To continue this activation approach, Carlisle Street was included in the Vibrant Villages Program, which concluded in June 2017. Projects completed in the Balaclava village as part of the Vibrant Villages Program included:
  - Street art mural on the 7Elevan at Balaclava train station to combat graffiti and tagging.
  - Charles St Graffiti Jam – a street party bringing together local street artists to 'paint the street' in street art in a graffiti and tagging 'hotspot'
  - RMIT Urban Lab – an ephemeral art project with multiple installations on Carlisle Street



- examining space, its use and people's behaviour within it
  - Vibrant Balaclava Street Party.
- 2.6. In response to recent community concerns, Council has:
- Delivered a free training session 'Dealing with Difficult People' training for traders and their staff in May 2017. 15 participants attended the session.
  - Supported the Victoria Police Community Safety Forum in June 2017. The forum attracted over 40 residents and traders who voiced their concerns. The consumption of alcohol in public places was the dominant issue of concern, with a strong call for Council to review the Local Law regarding public drinking.
- 2.7. On 7 July 2017, Council received a petition with 809 signatories from the Carlisle Street Shopping Village requesting a change to the Local Law. The petition requested "a 24 hour ban prohibiting the open consumption of alcohol along Carlisle Street".
- 2.8. On 18 July 2017, Council received a letter from Acting Inspector, Stuart Bailey from Victoria Police supporting the recent petition, and furthermore, requested a 12 month trial of the 24 hour ban on Carlisle Street.
- 2.9. Members of the Port Phillip Licensee Association have also voiced support for Council to introduce measures to reduce the consumption of alcohol in public spaces. For licensees this restriction is thought to prevent alcohol management issues such as 'side loading' whereby people can purchase low cost alcohol that is consumed off premises. Licensees can be then left to manage intoxicated patrons who have not been served excessive alcohol by their venue.
- 2.10. On 2 August 2017, at the request of Councillors, Council held a Public Drinking Workshop for Councillors, Victoria police members and local support agencies. The Workshop engaged stakeholders to consider what 'success' would be from a range of viewpoints, heard from Dr Michael Savic who has completed research about the impacts of local drinking laws and developed multidisciplinary strategies for reducing harms associated with public alcohol consumption.

### **3. KEY INFORMATION**

#### **Impact of Public Drinking in Carlisle Street, St Kilda**

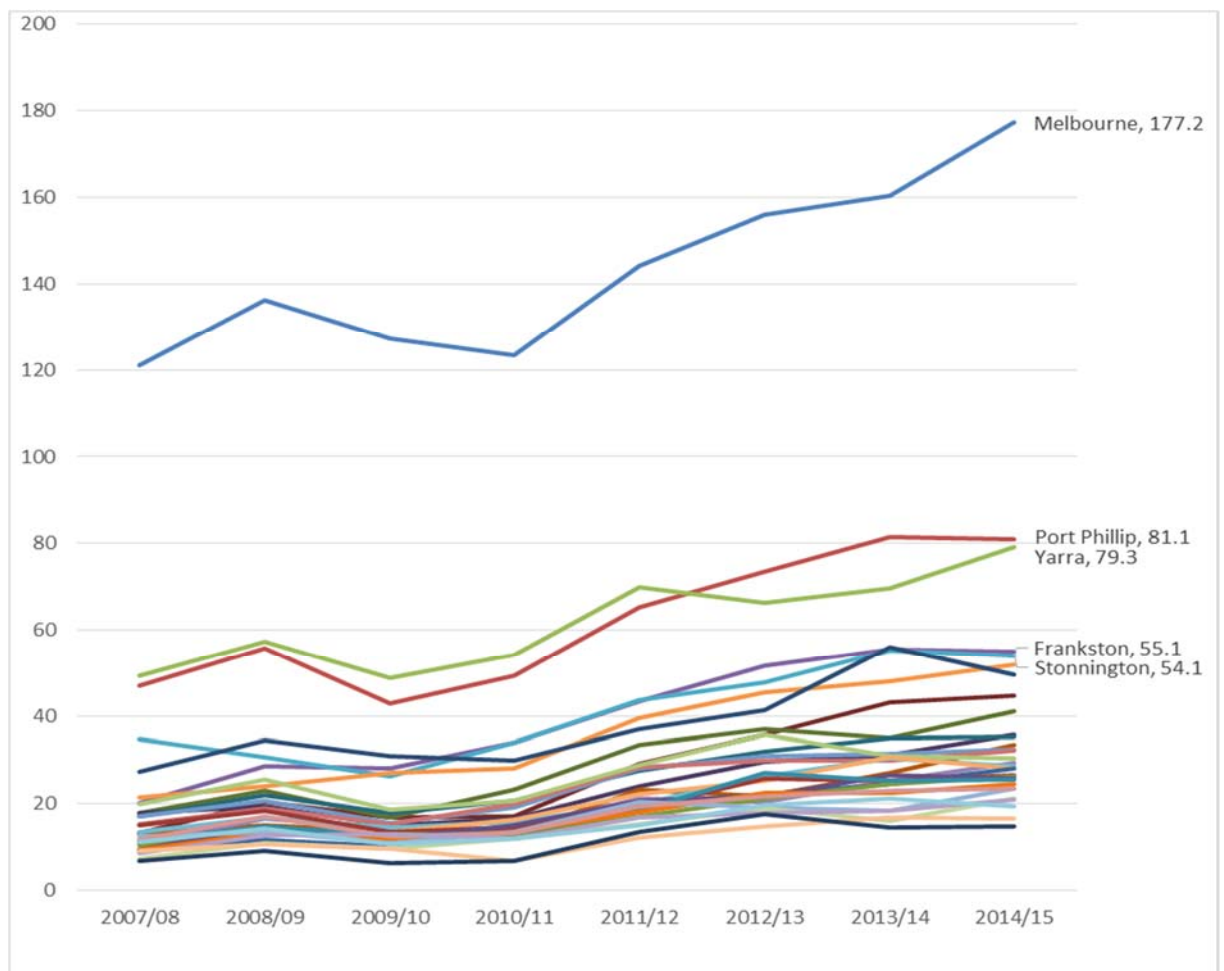
- 3.1 The ongoing challenges for traders regarding the public consumption of alcohol in Carlisle Street is evidenced by the two petitions received by Council in 2012 and 2017.
- 3.2 Regular observations of Community Health and Service Planning staff at Council over the past 12 months estimate the number of people who regularly consume alcohol in public in Carlisle Street varies between 3-10 people. The composition of this group appears to change over time. There is often conflict amongst people consuming alcohol in Carlisle Street. Shouting and physical violence between those consuming alcohol has been witnessed. Whilst the number of people consuming alcohol in Carlisle is relatively small, the impact of the alcohol influenced behaviours of this group is noticeable in the immediate area.
- 3.3 Council's Customer Record Management System records enquiries and complaints regarding all Council business. Since January 2017, Council has received eight customer enquiries regarding the consumption of alcohol in public spaces and the associated anti-social behaviour.
- Five complaints have been made to Council in the last two months about the negative behaviours associated with the consumption of alcohol in public.



- Enquiries have come from both residents and traders.
  - The main concerns coming from the complaints are violence and physical assaults occurring in the street, threatening behaviour e.g. verbal abuse, aggressive begging, feelings of being unsafe and 'intoxicated groups of people congregating'.
  - In three of the complaints, the point is made that the issue of unsafe behaviours due to alcohol is not just occurring in Carlisle Street – Acland Street and Fitzroy Street have also been mentioned with similar complaints being identified of violence and verbal abuse.
- 3.4 Victoria Police held a Victoria Police Community Safety Forum in Carlisle Street on Tuesday 13 June 2017. This forum attended by approximately 40 community members highlighted safety concerns about Carlisle Street. The report of this forum can be accessed in full on the City of Port Phillip webpage. Forum participants recounted many instances whereby safety and the lack of perceived safety in Carlisle Street was impacted by those who consume alcohol in the street. Other influences such as witnessing illicit drug use and graffiti was also identified as contributing to perceptions of safety.
- 3.5 Evidence provided by Victoria Police is aggregated at the St Kilda postcode level and does not distinguish Carlisle Street specifically. This data identifies:
- “A recent local assessment indicated that nine percent of incidents St Kilda Police attend are alcohol related. The impact is evenly spread across morning, afternoon and night shifts.”
  - “Alcohol related harm has increased significantly from 2001 to 2010 despite the level of alcohol consumption per capita remaining stable.”
  - “Victoria Police has identified alcohol as a driver of crime, particularly recidivist offending.”

**Data Related to Alcohol Related Harm in the City of Port Phillip**

- 3.6 In general, the City of Port Phillip records high levels of alcohol related harms such as rates recorded in ambulance attendances (reported in aodstats.org.au). It is difficult to ascertain from the recorded data which harms are related to the consumption of alcohol in public spaces compared to private or commercial venues.
- 3.7 Alcohol Ambulance Attendance Rate is reported in a database of alcohol and other drug related attendances by Ambulance Victoria. Data is available from 1998 onwards for the Metropolitan Melbourne area (Dietze, Cvetkovski et al. 2000).



- Ambulance attendances in the City of Port Phillip for the year 2014/2015 were 81 per 10,000 population. In comparison to other Metropolitan Melbourne Councils, this rate is relatively high. Yarra City Council also records relatively high ambulance attendance rates.
- The City of Melbourne records more than double the rate of ambulance attendances than the City of Port Phillip.
- The City of Port Phillip records the highest rate of ambulance attendances in the Southern Region.
- There has been an increasing rate of alcohol related ambulance attendances in past seven years experienced in the City of Port Phillip from 48 to 81 per 10,000 population.

**Evidence Base Responses to Public Consumption of Alcohol**

- 3.8 Few local government areas in the greater Melbourne metropolitan area have commissioned evaluations as to the effectiveness and the impacts of the application of local laws to restrict the consumption of alcohol in public places.
- 3.9 Turning Point Drug and Alcohol Centre and Monash University undertook evaluative research titled ‘Prohibiting public drinking in an urban area: Determining the impacts on police, the community and marginalised groups’. This research was funded by the National Drug Law Enforcement Research



Fund (NDLRF). The full research paper is publically available at [www.ndlrf.gov.au](http://www.ndlrf.gov.au). Key findings for the areas studied (Darebin, Yarra and Maribyrnong), as presented at the Public Drinking Stakeholder Workshop, include:

- Areas reported improved perceptions of safety among the community.
- Councils reported improved amenity of the area where the public consumption of alcohol was prohibited.
- Local Laws prohibiting public drinking of alcohol were supported by the community.
- The local laws were inconsistently enforced.
- Public drinking laws result in negative impacts to marginalised groups including displacement and inability to pay fines escalated disadvantage.
- There was not strong evidence that the public drinking bans reduced alcohol related crime or harms, reduced the visibility of street drinking or were well understood or adhered to.

**Potential for displacement when changes are localised**

- 3.10 The Public Drinking Stakeholder Workshop identified the need to reduce the impact of displacement if bans were to be introduced for specific areas of our municipality and not others.
- 3.11 The option to designate an area around Carlisle Street, St Kilda whereby public consumption of alcohol is banned is likely to have the unintended consequence of increasing the public consumption of alcohol in other retail precincts in the City of Port Phillip.
- 3.12 Council is also aware of its responsibility not to displace the public consumption of alcohol to neighbouring municipalities. It is noted that neighbouring local government areas do have restrictions on consuming alcohol in public places:
- The City of Melbourne bans the consumption of alcohol in public places in the central business district 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Responsible consumption of BYO alcohol is permitted in the City of Melbourne's public parks and gardens by individuals or groups of 50 people or less.
  - The City of Stonnington does not allow the consumption of liquor in any public place without a permit.
  - The City of Glen Eira have restrictions in the form of the Caulfield Alcohol Free Zone on Race Meeting Days.
  - The City of Bayside does not allow the consumption of alcohol on any roads at any time (unless a permitted event or space).
- 3.13 The National Drug Law Enforcement Research Fund evaluation found that displacement was of concern for alcohol treatment outreach workers in terms of decreased access for clients to their services. Clients were harder to locate when pushed out of public view.
- 3.14 Displacement within different types of public space is to be monitored and managed. The City of Port Phillip already experiences the effects of public drinking in some parks, reserves and foreshore areas in the form of litter and intoxicated behaviours such as noise and violence. Litter collection is a significant cost to the City of Port Phillip. The displacement of public drinking to parks, reserves and foreshore areas will need to be measured within the evaluation model accompanying any policy change.



**Community Understanding of Local Laws**

- 3.15 Across Victoria the general community understanding for local laws prohibiting the consumption of alcohol in public places is poor. Many believe this is a Victorian Government responsibility, others think that it is illegal to walk anywhere in Metropolitan Melbourne with an opened alcoholic drink.
- 3.16 The City of Port Phillip, in partnership with Victoria Police and the City of Stonnington, produced communications materials to educate backpackers on the laws regarding alcohol in our area (2015).

**Bench-Marking other Metropolitan Melbourne Council Local Law Responses to Public Consumption of Alcohol**

- 3.17 Every Metropolitan Melbourne Council area except Whittlesea have a local law restricting the consumption of alcohol in public space in some form.
- 3.18 The range of local law responses are diverse.
  - Councils that prohibit public drinking in all public places at all times (Cardinia, Stonnington, Frankston, Greater Dandenong, Casey, Nillumbik, Melton, Wyndham, Hume, Maroondah and Knox).
  - Councils that allow alcohol consumption in public places during restricted hours (Port Phillip, Moonee Valley and Yarra Ranges).
  - Councils that have selected alcohol free areas (Glen Eira, Kingston, Mornington Peninsula, Maribyrnong, Hobsons Bay, Banyule, Darebin, Manningham, Monash and Boroondara).
  - Councils that do not allow drinking in streets but do allow it in parks during restricted hours (Bayside, Melbourne, Yarra (daytime hours), Moreland, Brimbank and Whitehorse).

**Multidisciplinary Responses to Reduce Harmful Alcohol Consumption**

- 3.19 As of 1 July 2017, disadvantaged/eligible persons can undertake approved activities instead of paying any infringement penalty. The Infringements Act 2006 (Infringements Act), in Part 2 - Division 3A, establishes a Work and Development Permit (WDP) scheme to enable an eligible person to expiate an infringement offence by undertaking approved activities instead of paying the infringement penalty. This is relevant in relation to infringements that may be issued for alcohol consumption in prohibited areas. In the past disadvantage persons would end up with significant fines adding to their disadvantage. The option to remove fines by undertaking approved activities will, in part, lessen the regulatory burden borne by our most disadvantaged residents.
- 3.20 Council is well placed to bring partners together to scope and engender support for multidisciplinary response options to respond to harmful public drinking. Multidisciplinary responses include:
  - Multiagency teams that jointly respond to areas of high concern in partnership with Victoria Police and Alcohol and Other Drug service providers. Such programs are active in responding to mental health illness in public places and the learnings are transferable to alcohol and other drug responses.
  - Services sharing information and coordinating active client centred outreach responses.
  - Programs for traders to increase capacity to understand and respond to those who sleep rough, those who suffer from mental ill health and those misusing alcohol and other drugs.



- Partnerships with other levels of government to improve access to alcohol and other drug treatment services and community activity programs.

**Street works and activation of Carlisle Street**

- 3.21 Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design is an effective framework for identifying physical and infrastructure changes that can be made to improve both perceptions of safety and reduce situation crime.
- 3.22 Inclusive place based activities, such as those implemented by the Vibrant Village program and like the successful recent events in Acland Street Village support community resilience and improve social cohesion. Social trust improves safety.

**Evaluation of Strategies Responding to Public Drinking in Port Phillip**

- 3.23 The City of Port Phillip is committed to ensuring that our work is evidenced based and that we consider the impact of our work.
- 3.24 The key limitation of the evaluation is that of determining attribution and contribution. When assessing attribution, the evaluation will consider whether the strategies implemented caused the observed outcomes. Health and social change is constant and is influenced by a range of factors outside of any regulatory or service provision programs. Questions will be included such as:
- Are the results attributable to the program?
  - Did the program cause the change?
  - Did the program contribute to outcomes?
  - Were there changes leading up to the program?
  - What other changes have been happening that may be influencing the precinct?
- 3.25 It is recommended that strategies to respond to public drinking are evaluated, using the following draft key evaluation questions:
- To what degree did the implementation of strategies to respond to public drinking improve the perception of safety in the City of Port Phillip?
  - To what degree did the implementation of strategies to respond to public drinking improve public safety in the City of Port Phillip?
  - To what degree did the implementation of strategies to respond to public drinking influence how police prevent and respond to crime in the City of Port Phillip?
  - To what extent did strategies to respond to public drinking create displacement of people who consume alcohol in public places?
  - To what degree did the implementation of strategies to respond to public drinking influence how local alcohol and other drug service providers engage with clients?
- 3.26 Data to assess key evaluation questions would include:
- Self-reported perception of safety
  - Intercept surveys
  - Stakeholder interviews
  - Council Data (CRM / litter etc.)
  - Crime rates
    - Against person / Against property
    - Public order / Alcohol related offences
    - Total crime rates





#### 4. MEASURES OF SUCCESS

- 4.1 In considering options, it is important to note the indicators of success Council and our partners seek. These success factors were identified at the Councillor and Stakeholder Workshop Public Drinking (full record attached). Highlighted factors from a range of viewpoints include:

##### **Local Service Providers and Clients**

- Feeling safe and confident (staff and clients)
- Clients are engaged in healthier activities
- No unfair discrimination against clients
- No unfair labelling

##### **Traders**

- Customers and staff feel safe
- Good relationship with all users of the street
- People want to come to the street and spend time and money
- Enhanced village character and sense of community
- Licensing – serving and selling alcohol to not impact the amenity

##### **Police/Law Enforcement**

- Resource adjustment – aligning resource allocation so that police spend time when, where they're needed and wanted
- Crime statistics are reduced
- prevent harm
- Want to meet community expectations
- Increased perception of safety
- Effective management of individuals (pathways to services, prevention of harm)

##### **Visitors**

- Friendly, vibrant and colourful atmosphere
- Refer other visitors to the area
- Use and access the entertainment precinct

##### **Residents**

- Maintain a culturally lively atmosphere
- Quiet enjoyment of area
- Amenity in terms of noise and litter
- Safe
- All people are respected and cared for
- Issue is addressed and not relocated

##### **People Who are Drinking**

- Feel safe
- Enjoy the company of others
- Feeling part of the community and connected in a positive and meaningful manner
- Equal voice – not feeling disempowered
- Not unfairly targeted



**5. CONSIDERATION OF OPTIONS**

- 5.1 The Councillor and Stakeholder Public Drinking Workshop concluded that a multidisciplinary approach to reducing harms associated with public drinking is necessary.

<b>Rec 1. Response to petition</b>	Notes that the existing Local Law No.1 includes existing provisions for the nomination of time and places to restrict the public consumption of alcohol. It is not necessary to change Local Law No. 1. The City of Port Phillip Procedures and Protocols Manual can be amended to effect change.
<b>Rec 2. Review MOU Victoria Police</b>	Amend the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Port Phillip and Victoria Police titled Alcohol Restrictions in Public Places (2009) to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue the agreement that Victoria Police officers enforce the provisions of the Local Law No 1 with regard to the consumption of alcohol in public places,</li> <li>• Add stipulations that Victoria Police are strongly encouraged to utilise ‘tip out’, treatment referral and warning response options rather than fines and powers of arrest that may further disadvantage vulnerable residents and visitors, and</li> <li>• Support the evaluation of strategies to reduce the impact of public drinking</li> </ul>
<b>Rec 3. Service response</b>	Leads the development of a multidisciplinary agency response, involving Victoria Police and alcohol and other drug agencies, to increase access for individuals who consume alcohol in public places to health and social inclusion services.
<b>Rec 4. Safe Design</b>	Designs and implements future street work improvements in accordance with Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles that consider how physical public spaces can improve both perceptions of safety and reduce opportunistic crime.
<b>Rec 5. Community understanding</b>	Implements a community messaging campaign to increase community understanding, especially for visitors to the City of Port Phillip, improving understanding of local public drinking laws.
<b>Rec 6. Evaluation</b>	Undertakes evaluation of strategies responding to public drinking. This evaluation will report to Council in 12 months with interim findings and final report for consideration in two years.



5.2 The Councillor and Stakeholder Public Drinking Workshop identified a range of regulatory response options that are presented below as a spectrum. Option 3 forms the preferred recommendation for consideration.

	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
<b>Rec 7. Regulatory response</b>	7.1 Keep current local laws and guidelines regarding public drinking allowing alcohol consumption in public places 9am-8pm.	7.2 Two year trial of public drinking ban in Carlisle Street only.	7.3 Two year trial of public drinking ban in all streets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alcohol consumption in parks between 9am-8pm allowed</li> <li>• Exemption for permitted events</li> </ul>	7.4 Two Year trial of public drinking ban in all public places at all times of the day and night (incl. streets, parks and beaches). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exemption for permitted events).</li> </ul>
<b>Officer Comment</b>	<p>This option allows for the rights of all in Carlisle to continue to consume alcohol and enjoy the company of others.</p> <p>It is not recommended as it does not respond to the relatively high rates of alcohol related harms in Port Phillip or the localised need to address perceptions of safety.</p>	<p>The behaviours associated with those who consume alcohol in public in Carlisle Street have a significant impact on local residents and traders.</p> <p>The evidence reviewed does suggest that areas where restrictions were introduced did report improved perceptions of safety and high levels of community support for changes.</p> <p>This option is not recommended due to the likelihood of displacement of problematic public drinking to other areas.</p>	<p>This is the preferred option to reduce harms associated with public drinking in a consistent manner across the municipality, with little impact of displacement.</p> <p>This response is likely to also prevent or allow for regulatory response to harms of ‘preloading’ and ‘sideloading’ rather than the sole focus on a single group of public drinkers in a single street. Not unfairly labelling clients or discriminating was identified as an important measure of success by stakeholders.</p>	<p>This option may support the reduction of alcohol harm by reducing supply and access to alcohol consumption.</p> <p>This option is not preferred as the Councillor and Stakeholder Workshop identified the need to encourage socialisation in public spaces and community connections.</p>



## **FURTHER SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **6. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY**

- 6.1 Strategic Direction 1: We embrace difference, and people belong
- 6.2 Reducing harms of alcohol has been identified as an important issue and key priority in the City of Port Phillip Council Plan 2017-2027. Under Strategic Direction 1.1 - a safe and active community with strong social connections, Council has committed to “collaborate with partners to understand and minimise the harms associated with alcohol and other drugs”.

### **7. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS**

- 7.1 Council supported a Community Safety Forum, in partnership with Victoria Police in June 2017. The forum attracted approximately 60 residents and traders who voiced their concerns. The consumption of alcohol in public places was the dominant issue of concern, with a strong call for Council to review the Local Law regarding public drinking. The record notes of this forum are attached.
- 7.2 On 18 July 2017, Council received a letter from Acting Inspector, Stuart Bailey from Victoria Police supporting the recent petition, and furthermore, requested a 12 month trial of the 24 hour ban on Carlisle Street.
- 7.3 Members of the Port Phillip Licensee Association have also voiced support for Council to introduce measures to reduce the consumption of alcohol in public spaces. For licensees this restriction is thought to prevent alcohol management issues such as ‘side loading’ whereby people can purchase low cost alcohol that is consumed off premises. Licensees can be then left to manage intoxicated patrons who have not been served excessive alcohol by their venue.
- 7.4 On 2 August 2017, and at the request of Councillors, Council hosted a facilitated Public Drinking Workshop for Councillors, local senior Victoria police members and local support agencies. The Workshop engaged stakeholders to consider what ‘success’ would be from a range of viewpoints, heard from Dr Michael Savic who has completed research about the impacts of local drinking laws and developed multidisciplinary strategies for reducing harms associated with public alcohol consumption. The record notes of this workshop are attached.

### **8. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 Legal and risk implications will be explored and addressed within the Review of the Memorandum of Understanding with Victoria Police.
- 8.2 Given the relatively high levels of alcohol related harms in the City of Port Phillip and the sustained expression of community concerns, there is risk for Council in not developing and implementing responses to reduce alcohol related harms.



**9. SUSTAINABILITY – Triple Bottom Line**

**9.1 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1.1 Reducing alcohol consumption in public places is likely to reduce inappropriately discarded waste.

**9.2 SOCIAL & CULTURAL IMPLICATIONS**

9.2.1 It is acknowledged that some laws have inequitable impact on those who face the greatest disadvantage in our community. Recommendations consider mitigation by placing emphasis on the following measures:

- The Memorandum of Understanding with Victoria Police will encourage the application of powers to tip out, treatment referral and warning responses rather than charging and incarceration.
- The evaluation key questions will consider the impact of strategies for all in our community, particularly those who face barriers to social participation.

9.2.2 Health inequities will be addressed by increasing the access to alcohol and other drug services in a holistic multidisciplinary approach that considers client focused care.

**9.3 ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS**

9.3.1 Traders of Carlisle Street have expressed that the behaviours associated with the public consumption of alcohol is having a negative effect on trade.

**9.4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

9.4.1 Councils Senior Safety and Health Officer will provide expertise and project management to guide the implementation of endorsed recommendations.

9.4.2 A multidisciplinary agency response involving Victoria Police and alcohol and other agencies is likely to require financial resources. Further details will be provided to Council when the scope and operational information has been clarified with our partners.

**10. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY**

**10.1 TIMELINE**

10.1.1 Endorsed changes to the provisions of the local law guidelines will be introduced in alignment with the current review of the Local Law No 1.

10.1.2 The Review of the Memorandum of Understanding with Victoria Police will be agreed by the end of December 2017.

10.1.3 A multidisciplinary agency response involving Victoria Police and alcohol and other agencies will be developed over the coming 3 months. Further details will be provided to Council when the scope and operational information has been clarified with our partners.

10.1.4 It is proposed that all future street work improvements are designed in accordance with Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles.



10.1.5 Community messaging to increase community understanding, especially for visitors to the City of Port Phillip, improving understanding of local public drinking laws will be prepared by the end of December 2017.

10.1.6 The evaluation of strategies that respond to public drinking will be developed by the end of December 2017. Findings will be reported to Council in 12 months with interim findings and final report for consideration in two years.

## 10.2 COMMUNICATION

### Key Messages:

- Council understands the level of community concern about the behaviours of those who drink excessive amounts of alcohol in public places.
- Responding to reduce the harms associated with public drinking is complex and the rights and inclusion for all must be considered. The evidence about what works well with regard to local laws shows that they do not simply 'solve' all problems.
- Council is committed to exploring a range of options in partnership with our partners that include law enforcement, social support and improved access to health treatment programs.

## II. OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT INTEREST

No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any direct or indirect interest in the matter.