

08 March 2018

Inspector Jason Kelly
Port Phillip Police Service Area
St. Kilda Police Complex
92 Chapel Street
ST KILDA VIC 1445



Our Ref: D/2018/195317

Dear Inspector Kelly,

Re: Letter of Support – Alcohol Bans – Port Phillip LGA – Victoria

I refer to our discussion regarding the issue of alcohol consumption on the Port Phillip Local Government Area (LGA) Foreshore in Victoria and the similar situation faced by the Eastern Beaches Police Area Command in Sydney in the vicinities of Coogee Beach.

Eastern Beaches Police Area Command (PAC) falls within the Local Government Area of Randwick. The suburb of Coogee falls within the Eastern Beaches patrol and is a beachside suburb popular to all members of the community, attracting tourists all throughout the year. Coogee Beach itself is surrounded by a number of reserves, Dunningham Reserve, Goldstein Reserve and Grant Reserve, with several licensed premises in close proximity to the beach and reserve areas.

Two weeks prior to Christmas Day 2016, the Randwick Council Mayor imposed limited alcohol restrictions for Goldstein Reserve and Dunningham Reserve, with these restrictions only in operation from midday to 4pm. These restrictions were imposed by the Mayor in response to community and police concerns about anti-social behaviour.

On Christmas Day 2016, police responded to approximately 14,000 people consuming intoxicating liquor within Goldstein Reserve. The behaviour of the people in Goldstein Reserve received significant adverse media attention. In response, the Mayor imposed a complete alcohol restriction for Coogee Beach, Goldstein Reserve and Dunningham Reserve. Initially, this ban was proposed to run for the remainder of the Summer. However, due to the effectiveness of the ban, it was permanently extended in March 2017. Similar alcohol bans have now been imposed across the coastline of the Randwick Council for public holiday periods.

The establishment of the Alcohol-Free Zone has proven to be extremely positive both to the community and to the Eastern Beaches Police. The most tangible benefit has been a decrease in anti-social behaviour and alcohol related violence. The Alcohol-Free Zone has been widely supported by licensed premises in the Coogee area. Police have devoted resources to enforce the Alcohol-Free Zone. As a result, the overall calls for police assistance to the Coogee Reserves and beach area has decreased.

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A High Visibility Policing Unit (HVP) was established in September 2016. This unit has concentrated its resources within the Alcohol-Free Zone set up at Coogee and other beachside areas, for example the HVP Summer Operation running all throughout the Summer period.

The increased police presence has increased proactivity, as shown by the increased in licensed premises inspections, licensing infringements, move on directions and person searches. Police have utilised drug dogs within the licensed premises, resulting in an increase in drug detections. The Coogee area has seen a decrease in alcohol related assaults, alcohol related traffic offences, street offences and sexual assault offences.

I would note that it would be quite challenging for us to measure the volume of calls made in relation to the Alcohol-Free Zone, before and after the ban was imposed. As would a scientific review of the Alcohol-Free Zone, as the policing response in 2016 was different to the one in 2017. Attached below is a list of incidents that were alcohol related in the Coogee area only. The increase in some areas is as a result of the extra Police presence.

Additionally, in relation to your query regarding User Pays, most NSW Police Services are provided free of charge to the general community. However, some policing services go beyond these responsibilities and clients are charges fees for the benefit of the goods or services provided.

A user charge transaction is one where NSW Police recovers from the client (an individual, company or other incorporated association) the costs of providing a service or good. These transactions include policing services at special events, transport escorts, the provision of a variety of information to the public, legal firms and insurance companies etc, and the control of traffic for film and television shoots.

Eastern Beaches PAC generally provides a policing presence to all Major Council initiated events. The council will utilise user charges Police for smaller and prolonged events where liquor is consumed, for example 'A Taste of Coogee', this is done by agreement as per NSW Police Force User Charges Policy. Waverly Council however pay for User Charges Police to police Bondi Beach on peak Summer days.

Should you require any further information that we may be able to provide please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Karen McCarthy
Commander
Eastern Beaches Police Area Command

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2016 ALCOHOL RELATED INCIDENTS IN COOGEE	
Assault	80
Business Inspection	153
Drug Detection	15
Intoxicated Person	10
Licensing Legislation	106
Malicious Damage	12
Mental Health Act	17
Noise Abatement	4
Powers – Move On	271
Powers – Person Search	137
Resist/Hinder/Assault Officer	36
Sexual Offence – Indecent Assault	1
Sexual Offence – Sexual Assault	5
Street Offence	51
Traffic	36

2017 ALCOHOL RELATED INCIDENTS IN COOGEE	
Assault	67
Business Inspection	229
Drug Detection	48
Intoxicated Person	23
Licensing Legislation	119
Malicious Damage	21
Mental Health Act	23
Noise Abatement	5
Powers – Move On	291
Powers – Person Search	232
Resist/Hinder/Assault Officer	32
Sexual Offence – Indecent Assault	0
Sexual Offence – Sexual Assault	4
Street Offence	46
Traffic	21

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