

**ITEM 3. ALCOHOL FREE ZONES****FILE NO: S042446-04****SUMMARY**

On 3 July 2006, the City established 32 alcohol free zones (AFZ) in the City Central, Leichhardt, Newtown and Redfern Local Area Commands (LAC). For the purpose of this report, each street or section of a street has been listed as an individual AFZ, so this represents 40 existing AFZ.

On 2 July 2009, these 40 existing AFZ will expire and no longer be enforceable by NSW Police. In order to renew the existing AFZ network and to consider any proposals for new AFZ, Council must endorse the commencement of an extensive consultation process with community groups and organisations.

On 3 July 2007, nine additional AFZ were established in the City Central, Newtown and Redfern LAC. For the purpose of this report, 10 streets or sections of streets are identified as AFZ. Whilst these 10 AFZ do not expire until 2 July 2011, they are being considered for renewal now in order to streamline the start dates for AFZ across the City, and to save an estimated \$15,000 in public exhibition costs.

In addition to the re-establishment of the 50 AFZ, a further 23 streets or sections of streets have been proposed for AFZ by Police and local residents, making a total of 73 AFZ proposed for the required community consultation process. Five applications were received by Police Local Area Commands (City Central, Leichhardt, Newtown, Redfern and Metropolitan Sydney Regional Command) and six applications were received from local residents. An additional request for the re-establishment of the Redfern AFZ was received from a Waterloo resident representing the "People's Precinct". The "People's Precinct" is one of the 11 precincts on the Housing NSW Waterloo Estate representing 206 out of the 2502 households on the estate.

Of the 73 proposed AFZs in this report:

- (a) 50 are the existing AFZ mentioned above, and
- (b) 23 are newly proposed AFZ.

This includes:

- (a) 25 in City Central LAC (of which 8 are newly proposed AFZ);
- (b) 12 in Leichhardt LAC (of which 5 are newly proposed);
- (c) 13 in Newtown LAC (of which 3 are newly proposed);
- (d) 21 in Redfern LAC (of which 5 are newly proposed); and
- (e) 2 in The Rocks LAC (both of which are newly proposed).

Some applications requested the renewal of existing AFZs; some proposed new AFZ and some requested the extension of existing AFZs.

A further three applications were received and assessed by Council Officers that are not listed in this report, due to one being proposed for an area outside the City's Local Government Area and two being proposed for private roads and footpaths. AFZ can only be established on a public road, footpath or public car park.

## RECOMMENDATION

It is resolved that Council endorse the commencement of consultation with interested parties as required by Section 644A of the *Local Government Act 1993* and the *NSW Ministerial Guidelines on Alcohol Free Zones* for the following proposed Alcohol Free Zones:

### **City Central Local Area Command**

#### **Existing AFZ proposed for re-establishment**

1. George Street from Campbell Street to Druitt Street
2. Liverpool Street from Douglass Street to Wentworth Avenue
3. Central Street from George Street to Pitt Street
4. Wilmot Street from George to Pitt Street
5. Bathurst Street from Kent to Castlereagh Street
6. Pitt Street from Park Street to Cunningham Street
7. Goulburn Street from Sussex Street to Castlereagh Street
8. Castlereagh Street from Goulburn Street to Liverpool Street
9. Park Street from George Street to Castlereagh Street
10. Eddy Avenue from Pitt Street to Elizabeth Street

#### **Pymont**

11. Union Square/Union Street from Harris Street to Murray Street
12. Paternoster Row from Union Street to Pymont Bridge Road
13. Pymont Street from Point Street to Bunn Street
14. Edward Street from Bunn Street to Pirrama Road
15. Pirrama Road from Harris Street to Murray Street
16. Murray Street from Pirrama Road to Union Street
17. Point Street

**New Locations proposed for AFZ**

18. Day Street from Liverpool Street to Druitt Street
19. George Street from Druitt Street to Market Street
20. Darling Drive from Union Street to the Western Distributor
21. Dixon Street from Goulburn Street to Factory Street
22. Elizabeth Street from St James Road to Liverpool Street
23. St James Road from St Mary's Road to Elizabeth Street
24. College Street from St James Road to Liverpool Street
25. Park Street from Castlereagh Street to William Street

**Leichhardt Local Area Command****Existing AFZ proposed for re-establishment**

1. Glebe Point Road from Parramatta Road to Bridge Road
2. Cowper Street from Glebe Point Road to Wentworth Park Road
3. Franklyn Street from Cowper Street to Francis Street
4. Mitchell Street from Catherine Street to Wentworth Park Road
5. St Johns Road from Ross Street to Wentworth Park Road
6. Glebe Street from Cowper Street to Bay Street
7. Bay Street from Broadway to Wentworth Park Road

**New locations proposed for AFZ**

8. Glebe Point Road from Bridge Road to Federal Road
9. Forest Road from St Johns Road to Arundel Street
10. Bridge Road from Gottenham Street to Railway Street
11. Colbourne Ave from Lyndhurst St to St Johns Rd
12. Lyndhurst St from Bridge Road to Darghan St

**Newtown Local Area Command****Existing AFZ proposed for re-establishment**

1. King Street (eastern side) from Whateley Street to Goddard Street
2. Whateley Street from King Street to Wilson Street

3. Thomas Street
4. Railway Lane from Thomas Street to Angel Street
5. Newman Street from King Street to Thomas Street
6. Whitehorse Street
7. Norfolk Street
8. Hordern Street from King Street to Victoria Street
9. Mechanic Street from Church Street to Egan Street
10. Campbell Street from O'Connell Street to Elizabeth Street

**New locations proposed for AFZ**

11. King Street from Church Street to Missenden Road
12. Missenden Road from King Street to Carillon Avenue
13. Longdown Street

**Redfern Local Area Command****Existing AFZ proposed for re-establishment**

1. Redfern Street from Gibbons Street to Elizabeth Street
2. Lawson Square
3. George Street from Redfern Street to Turner Street
4. Elizabeth Street from Redfern Street to McEvoy Street
5. Regent Street from Redfern Street to Boundary Street
6. Botany Road from Boundary Street to Raglan Street
7. Gardeners Road (northern side) from Dalmeny Avenue to Primrose Avenue
8. James Street from Young Street to Marriott Street

**Waterloo**

9. Phillip Street from Walker Street to Pitt Street
10. Wellington Street from Walker Street to Cope Street
11. Walker Street from Wellington Street to Phillip Street
12. Raglan Street from Botany Road to Cope Street
13. Cope Street from Raglan Street to Redfern Street

14. George Street from Raglan Street to John Street

Chippendale

15. Balfour Street from Cleveland Street to Meagher Street
16. Bartley Street from Abercrombie Street to Balfour Street

**New locations proposed for AFZ**

17. Lawson Street from Gibbons Street to Abercrombie Street
18. Eveleigh Street from Lawson Street to Caroline Street

Waterloo

19. Pitt Street from Phillip Street to Kellick Street
20. Phillip Street from Pitt Street to Cope Street
21. Raglan Street from Pitt Street to Cope Street

**The Rocks Local Area Command**

**New locations proposed for AFZ**

1. George Street from Market Street to Alfred Street
2. King Street from Sussex Street to Clarence Street

**ATTACHMENTS**

**Attachment A:** List of proposed streets for AFZs for the City Central, Leichhardt, Newtown, Redfern and The Rocks Local Area Commands

**Attachment B:** Maps of proposed AFZs for City Central, Leichhardt, Newtown, Redfern and The Rocks Local Area Commands

**Attachment C:** Consultation timetable for proposed AFZs for City Central, Leichhardt, Newtown, Redfern and The Rocks Local Area Commands

**Attachment D:** Ministerial Guidelines on Alcohol Free Zones 2009

**BACKGROUND**

1. There are currently a total of 116 Alcohol Free Zones (AFZs) in the City of Sydney Local Government Area (LGA). AFZs aim to prevent irresponsible drinking escalating into serious incidents of criminal and anti-social behaviour. AFZ aim to set and reinforce boundaries for appropriate behaviour and to minimise conflict between different groups in the community; such as commuters, residents, party-goers, people who are homeless and people who drink on the streets.
2. On 3 July 2006, the City established 32 AFZs in the City Central, Leichhardt, Newtown and Redfern Local Area Commands (LACs). For the purpose of this report, each street or section of a street has been listed as an individual AFZ, so this represents 40 existing AFZs.
3. On 2 July 2009, these 40 AFZs will expire and no longer be enforceable by NSW Police. To renew the existing AFZ network and to consider any proposals for new AFZ, Council must endorse the commencement of an extensive consultation process with community groups and organisations.
4. On 3 July 2007, ten AFZ were established in the City Central, Newtown and Redfern LACs affecting ten streets or sections of streets. While these ten AFZs do not expire until 2 July 2011, they are being considered for renewal now in order to streamline the start dates for AFZs across the City, and to save an estimated \$15,000 in public exhibition costs.
5. A total of 73 AFZs in five Police LACs are proposed, as a result of 11 AFZ applications; five being from Police Commands (City Central, Leichhardt, Newtown, Redfern and Metropolitan Sydney Regional Command) and six from local residents. An additional request for the re-establishment of the Redfern AFZ was received from a Waterloo resident representing the "People's Precinct". The "People's Precinct" is one of the 11 precincts on the Housing NSW Waterloo Estate representing 206 out of the 2502 households on the estate.
6. Of the 73 AFZs:
  - (a) 50 are the existing AFZs mentioned above; and
  - (b) 23 are newly proposed AFZs.
7. These include:
  - (a) 25 in City Central LAC (of which 8 are newly proposed AFZ);
  - (b) 12 in Leichhardt LAC (of which 5 are newly proposed);
  - (c) 13 in Newtown LAC (of which 3 are newly proposed);
  - (d) 21 in Redfern LAC (of which 5 are newly proposed); and
  - (e) 2 in The Rocks LAC (both of which are newly proposed).
8. A list of the proposed AFZs is at Attachment A and maps of the proposed AFZs are at Attachment B.
9. Some applications requested the renewal of existing AFZ; some proposed new AFZ and some requested the extension of existing AFZ.

10. Three applications received for new AFZs are not listed or proposed in this report. Two applications within the City Central LAC requested that AFZs be established on private roads. AFZs can only be established on a public road, footpath or public car park.
11. One of these applications was for the Darling Island Precinct, Pyrmont which is currently a private road owned by the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority. The second application was for the footpath located between Pirrama Road and Union Street adjacent to the Gateway Apartments in Pyrmont. This footpath is privately owned by the owners of two adjacent residential properties.
12. The third application was for Newtown Square within the Newtown LAC. The applicant requested the area outside The Hub Theatre in Newtown be re-established as an AFZ. This section of King Street falls outside the City of Sydney LGA. A Council Officer has sent the application for an AFZ to Marrickville Council and the Newtown LAC for their consideration, and the applicant has been informed of these actions and the location of the City of Sydney boundaries.
13. On 15 December 2008, Council asked the Chief Executive Officer to report on the effectiveness of the George Street temporary AFZ for New Year's Eve, which was active from 30 December 2008 to 2 January 2009. Safe City Staff are currently evaluating this temporary AFZ, and the outcomes of this evaluation will be included in the next AFZ report to Council scheduled for mid 2009. The evaluation includes collecting information from police, licensed venues, security, New Year's Eve event organisers and community.
14. All AFZ applications will be assessed during the consultation process. Police LACs will be asked to assess the appropriateness of the proposed AFZ and indicate whether resources exist for the enforcement of the proposed AFZ.
15. If Council agrees to endorse the proposed AFZ, an extensive consultation process over a 40 day period must occur. A project plan for public exhibition and community consultation is at Attachment C.
16. Additionally, the revised *Ministerial Guidelines on Alcohol Free Zones 2009* at Attachment D contain criteria for the evaluation of AFZs, including:
  - (a) What were the factors which originally supported a zoning in that area?
  - (b) How successful was the previous alcohol free zone in achieving a reduction in unacceptable street drinking?
  - (c) What do police statistics indicate about the value of re-establishing an alcohol free zone in that area?
  - (d) What other measures may need to be considered if unacceptable street drinking is still of concern in that area?
  - (e) Has the community's perception of safety been improved?

17. The City of Sydney's *Alcohol Free Zone Policy* seeks to ensure that AFZs are established in accordance with the law and in response to evidence of alcohol related incidents. While the new evaluation criteria are a valuable addition to evidence based planning for AFZs, the City's existing AFZ assessment processes address these points. The City will incorporate the new evaluation criteria into the report to Council at the end of the exhibition period.

## KEY IMPLICATIONS

### Strategic Alignment

18. AFZs are only one strategy to address the issue of alcohol-related crime and antisocial behaviour. The City's *Street Drinking Strategy*, *Drug and Alcohol Strategy*, and *Late Night Trading Premises Development Control Plan* identify strategies to reduce alcohol-related crime and antisocial behaviour. The City's Public Space Liaison Officer brokers appropriate responses to the needs of vulnerable people as well as the broader public. The City and Local Area Commands are members of the Sydney Mega Crime Prevention Partnership which has identified additional strategies to reduce alcohol related incidents in the inner city.
19. Two priority areas of the *Drug and Alcohol Strategy* are minimising the impacts from patrons leaving licensed premises and continuing to drink in public, and people drinking in public spaces. AFZs are one tool that assists Council and the Police in the management of these activities.
20. The roll-out of the final phase of the *Smoke Free Environment 2000* legislation, banning smoking in enclosed spaces within licensed premises from 2 July 2007, has resulted in increased footpath congestion outside licensed premises, with anecdotal reports from Police of more licensed premises patrons smoking on the footway and bringing their alcoholic drinks with them.
21. AFZs enable Police to confiscate alcohol to prevent the escalation of intoxication which may reduce the need to manage more serious offences through the *Summary Offences* or *Crimes Act*.

### Social / Cultural / Community

22. AFZs aim to reduce alcohol-related crime and anti-social behaviour in identified locations in order to help create a safer environment for residents, businesses and visitors.

## BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

23. The cost of community consultation is \$15,000 which is provided in the approved 2008/09 budget.

## RELEVANT LEGISLATION

24. Legislative changes brought about by the *Liquor Legislation Amendment Act 2008*, the Ministerial Guidelines on Alcohol Free Zones have been updated. The Guidelines are issued under Section 646 of the *Local Government Act 1993* and must be followed by all councils.

**CRITICAL DATES / TIME FRAMES**

25. 32 AFZs in the City Central, Leichhardt, Newtown and Redfern LACs will expire on 2 July 2009.
26. A complete timetable for the required community consultation process is at Attachment C.

**PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

27. In order to consider proposed AFZs, Council must endorse the commencement of the required community consultation process. This process includes a public exhibition period and consultation with interested parties including liquor licensed venues, community groups, drug and alcohol services, homelessness services, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups and the NSW Anti-Discrimination Board.

**ANN HOBAN**

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