



DIRECTOR CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT

3rd February 2009

DCCS15	REPORT ON CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL POLICY
	FILE: 744 KEO

Reporting on the updated policy C21:5 with respect to the Consumption of Alcohol on Public Reserves.

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Background

This report came to Council's attention after numerous complaints were raised regarding Public Parks and Reserve areas were being utilised as areas where alcohol is being consumed.

On the 11th November 2008 Council resolved

1. That policy No. C21:5 "Consumption of Alcohol on Public Reserves" be amended as per the draft Policy submitted for consideration with this report.
2. That the Amended Policy be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days.
3. That following the Public Exhibition period that a further report be submitted to Council."

Progress to date

The updated policy ([Appendix G – Page J34](#)) was displayed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days with only one response. Council then distributed letters to all Sporting Clubs within the Shire requesting feedback on this draft.

Feedback received on the amended Policy Consumption of Alcohol were: -

1. Catherine Mottee rang to say that she thought it was a great idea and could Brighton Park be added into the Alcohol prohibited at all times list.
2. Matt Connors from the Saints Soccer Club, Kemp Street Users advised that it will impact on the participants, and would prefer restricted times for the Alcohol Prohibited enforcement, and that participants were responsible in their usage of alcohol.
3. Lyn Maloney from Little Athletics says that this will have no effect on their athletics club in fact it could help them as this would reduce the empty bottles and cans around the oval.
4. Correspondence was received from the South West Rocks Sporting Association indicating that the removal of the clubs ability to sell

alcohol at events and sporting fixtures will impact on the fund raising for the club and junior activities.

It is noted that the sporting groups that have active licenses to sell alcohol are the Mustangs at Verge Street Oval 1, and the Macleay Valley Rangers Soccer Clubhouse.

RECOMMENDATION IMPLICATIONS:

- *Environmental*

Nil

- *Social*

Alcohol is responsible for many of the anti social activities within the Shire. The reduction of venues used to consume alcohol and through providing the police with opportunities to engage with people consuming alcohol on sporting and recreational fields may provide a reduction in antisocial behaviour.

The ban on alcohol consumption on sporting and recreational reserves also supports and promotes a healthy lifestyle.

- *Economic (Financial)*

Funding to erect signage if approved will be provided through the Community Safety budget.

- *Policy or Statutory*

Nil

- *Director's Review*

Antisocial behaviour fuelled by Alcohol is impacting on our community. Council in nominating sporting fields and public reserves Alcohol Prohibited is sending a message to the community that this is not acceptable.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the revised Policy be adopted.
2. That sporting user groups wishing to sell alcohol apply for the appropriate licenses through the appropriate channels.
3. That sporting groups with existing licenses provide Council with details of their Responsible Service of Alcohol certificates of those selling the alcohol.

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ACTING DIRECTOR CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES