



**Randwick City
Council**
a sense of community

**PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING
SUPPLEMENTARY BUSINESS PAPER**

TUESDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2014

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PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

Notice is hereby given that an Planning Committee Meeting of the Council of the City of Randwick will be held in the Council Chamber, First Floor, 90 Avoca Street, Randwick, 30 Frances Street, Randwick, on Tuesday, 11 February 2014 at 6:00pm.

Mayoral Minute

MM1/14	Alcohol and Drug Related Violence - Liquor Licensing Law Reforms	1
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Mayoral Minute No. MM1/14



Subject: Alcohol and Drug Related Violence -
Liquor Licensing Law Reforms

Folder No: F2004/07767

Author: Councillor Nash, Mayor

Introduction

In response to the significant public concern with the increasing level of alcohol and drug related street violence in Sydney's entertainment precincts the NSW Government has introduced a suite of reforms to NSW liquor licensing laws which will see tighter regulation of licensed premises at Kings Cross and in the Sydney CBD.

The purpose of this Mayoral Minute is to provide Council with information in respect to these important liquor law reforms.

Issues

On 30 January 2014, the NSW Parliament passed the *Liquor Amendment Bill 2014* to introduce changes to the NSW liquor laws.

The changes include:

- No take-away liquor sales after 10pm, across the State
- "Lockouts" and "last drinks" for certain Sydney venues
- A freeze on new liquor licences in the Sydney CBD
- Extension of banning order provisions for police in the Sydney CBD
- Stricter conditions for RSA competency card holders in the Sydney CBD
- The creation of a Plan of Management for the Sydney CBD
- Introduction of an annual risk-based licensing scheme in 2015.

At the heart of the reforms is the 'declaration' of the Sydney CBD Entertainment Precinct which encompasses the suburbs of Kings Cross, parts of Surry Hills and Darlinghurst, The Rocks, Sydney CBD, Haymarket and Cockle Bay. Licensed premises (with the exception of small bars, restaurants and tourist accommodation establishments) that are situated within the Entertainment Precinct will be subject to a raft of new liquor licensing restrictions, including 1:30am lock-outs and the requirement to cease serving alcohol at 3:00am. These measures will commence on 24 February 2014.

In this regard, I wish to inform Council that Cr Matson and I met with Eastern Beaches Police Local Area Commander, Superintendent Jason Box, on 29 January 2014, to discuss the new liquor laws, amongst numerous other matters.

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During our meeting with Superintendent Box, Cr Matson and I took the opportunity to also discuss the efficacy of Council's current controls in respect to the consumption of alcohol at Coogee's beachside streets, parks and reserves.

After discussing these matters, Superintendent Box expressed the view that it was unlikely there would be any impact on the City of Randwick as a result of the Sydney CBD liquor reforms. The legislation has been carefully drafted so as to avoid late-night licensed premises patron displacement from the Sydney CBD and Kings Cross to other entertainment destinations. Nevertheless, Council and the Police will be monitoring this situation. Importantly, built into the reforms is the ability for these restrictions to be broadened, if necessary.

In respect to our current controls on 'public drinking', Councillors would be aware that Council has imposed restrictions on the consumption of alcohol in the beachside public areas at Coogee, and other locations throughout the City, by establishing Alcohol Free Zones (which operate to prohibit drinking on footways and roads – 24/7) and Alcohol Prohibited Zones (which operate in accordance with the terms of the Regulatory signage Council has erected in our Parks and Reserves). There is a total prohibition on the consumption of alcohol at all our beaches. These controls provide our Police with the power to enforce the 'public drinking' restrictions established by Council, which are reviewed periodically in consultation with the Local Area Commander, the community and other relevant stakeholders.

As a result of my discussions with Superintendent Box, I am of the view that our current restrictions on public drinking strike the right balance between the ability to allow the responsible consumption of alcohol during the day in some of our parks and reserves with a night-time ban to discourage, and give our Police the power to address, incidents of alcohol related anti-social behaviour in the public domain which predominately occur at night. Our current Alcohol Free Zones and Alcohol Prohibited Zones are set down to be reviewed by Council in November 2015. Although I am of that view, I would welcome debate on this issue.

Financial impact statement

There is no direct financial impact for this matter.

Conclusion

On 30 January 2014, the NSW Parliament passed new laws which will place greater restrictions on licensed premises situated in the Sydney CBD and Kings Cross, including the introduction of 1:30am lock-outs and last drinks at 3:00am. These new restrictions are squarely aimed at curbing the well publicised alcohol and drug related violence and anti-social behaviour occurring in those areas.

Cr Matson and I have met with the Eastern Beaches Local Area Commander to discuss these reforms, as well as our own controls in respect to the consumption of alcohol in public places. As a result of these discussions, I am assured that there will be no patron displacement from the Sydney CBD and Kings Cross that will adversely impact the City of Randwick's entertainment areas and that our current public place drinking restrictions are operating effectively. However, Council and our Police will be monitoring these issues to assess any impacts should they occur.

Recommendation

That this Mayoral Minute be received and noted and that Council continue to liaise with the Eastern Beaches Local Area Commander in relation to the issues raised in this Mayoral Minute.

Attachment/s:

Nil

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