

PURPOSE

To provide a framework for the establishment and maintenance of Alcohol Free Zones (AFZ) in Wollongong Local Government Area.

POLICY INTENT

The establishment of AFZs on public roads and footpaths at particular locations within the City of Wollongong is undertaken as an early intervention measure to prevent the escalation of irresponsible drinking, to incidents involving serious crime.

The main objectives of this policy are to:

- Detail Council's role in establishing and maintaining AFZs
- Demonstrate Council's commitment to creating a safe community.

WOLLONGONG 2032 OBJECTIVES

The Policy contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong 2032 Goal 5 'We have a healthy community in a liveable city'. It specifically contributes to the delivery of objective 5.11 'Local crime continues to be prevented and levels of crime reduced'.

The Wollongong Community Safety Plan 2021-2025 identifies Action Item 3.2 'Alcohol Free Zones and Alcohol Prohibited Places are reviewed every four years'.

POLICY

The *NSW Local Government Act 1993* (the Act) provides for the establishment of AFZs on roads and footpaths within local government areas as part of a strategy to improve public safety and prevent disorderly behaviour caused by the irresponsible consumption of alcohol in public places.

AFZs are established and maintained by Councils, while their enforcement is undertaken by NSW Police.

Statement of Procedures

1. Upon receipt of an application for an AFZ, check that the application is valid in accordance with Section 644 of the Act.
2. Acknowledge receipt of the application together with advice summarising the process to be followed and the anticipated time frame.
3. Refer the application to the NSW Police and Council's Community Safety Interagency for consideration and comment.
4. If the establishment of the AFZ is supported by NSW Police, prepare a report to Council, including the recommendations of the Police and Council's Community Safety Interagency, for consideration and approval of the public exhibition of the proposed zone.
5. Advertise the proposal to establish the AFZ and invite written comments from the community, the Officer in Charge of the Police station within or nearest to the zone concerned, each holder of a licence in force under the *Liquor Act 2007* for premises that border on, adjoin or are adjacent to the proposed zone, the Anti-Discrimination Board and Aboriginal organisations within 30 days.

6. Prepare a report including the recommendations of the parties consulted in step 5 and submit to Council for final approval of the establishment of the AFZ.
7. If Council resolves to establish an AFZ, the following notification is required to be given:
 - a. Notify the applicant, local police and all persons who have made submissions in respect of the proposal
 - b. Publish an advertisement in the newspaper advising of the establishment of the AFZ.
8. Install appropriate signposting at the boundaries of and at regular intervals within the AFZ.
9. Review the AFZ within 10 months of the expiration with a view to its re-establishment for a further term.

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

NSW Local Government Act 1993 Section 644
NSW Ministerial Guidelines on Alcohol Free Zones

REVIEW

This Policy will be reviewed a minimum of once every term of Council, or more frequently as required.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The establishment and maintenance of AFZ will be coordinated and delivered by the Community, Culture + Engagement Division.

Enforcement of AFZs is undertaken by NSW Police.

APPROVAL AND REVIEW

Responsible Division	Community, Culture + Engagement
Date adopted by Council	24 June 2024
Date/s of previous adoptions	12 September 2022, 8 September 2014, 13 December 1993
Date of next review	24 June 2027