

ALCOHOL-FREE ZONES FAQs

The establishment and operation of the Police supported Alcohol-Free Zones in Broken Hill assist Council in working toward achieving a safer community.

Broken Hill City Council uses Alcohol-Free Zones in some areas to prevent street drinking, improve public safety and promote maintenance of public order and the protection of property.

The zones minimise the chances of disorderly behaviour and alcohol-related crime on the streets. The Broken Hill City Council, Broken Hill Police and the local community are part of a program to discourage irresponsible alcohol consumption.

WHAT IS AN ALCOHOL-FREE ZONE?

An Alcohol-Free Zone is an area where it is illegal to consume alcohol 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Any person seen drinking in an Alcohol-Free Zone may have the alcohol in their possession immediately seized and tipped out or otherwise disposed of by Police.

HOW LONG DOES AN ALCOHOL-FREE ZONE STAY IN PLACE?

Once established each Alcohol-Free Zone is in place for a maximum of four years. After this time Council re-evaluates the zones.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ALCOHOL-FREE ZONES AND ALCOHOL PROHIBITED AREAS?

- Alcohol-Free Zones cover public roads, footpaths, public car parks and laneways
- Alcohol-Prohibited Areas cover public parks, beaches and reserves (including sporting grounds)

The same penalties apply for both Alcohol-Free Zones and Alcohol-Prohibited Areas.

WHAT IF I WANT TO ORGANISE AN EVENT THAT INVOLVES ALCOHOL IN AN ALCOHOL-FREE ZONE OR ALCOHOL-PROHIBITED AREA?

In some circumstances, Council will consider requests to temporarily suspend an Alcohol-Free Zone or Alcohol-Prohibited Area for a specific period of time or event, such as a community festival. This is at the discretion of Council in conjunction with approval from Liquor & Gaming NSW, the Local Area Command Police and in some cases the Local Traffic Committee.

Temporary suspension of an Alcohol-Free Zone or Alcohol-Prohibited Area may be considered by Council, providing proof of application for a liquor licence from Liquor & Gaming NSW. Therefore an application must be submitted to Council with a lead time of preferably six months before the proposed suspension period. An application form can be located on Council's website www.brokenhill.nsw.gov.au under the tab 'Forms'. An application form may also be obtained by contacting Council's Customer Relations team on 08 8080 3300.

CAN ALCOHOL BE CONSUMED AT SPECIAL EVENTS WITHIN THESE ZONES?

Only if the event is licenced by Liquor & Gaming NSW. Any event held in a public place must have a liquor licence if people want to consume alcohol. If the event is not licenced, the normal rules apply for Alcohol-Free Zones. The liquor licence will require a temporary suspension of the Alcohol-Free Zone or Alcohol-Prohibited Area.

WHAT DO POLICE HAVE THE POWER TO DO?

If a Police officer reasonably suspects that you are drinking, have been drinking, or are about to drink alcohol, the officer can confiscate it or tip out the alcohol. It cannot be given back to you. If you do not comply with these enforcements, you can be charged with obstruction under section 660 of the *Local Government Act 1993*. Penalties may apply.

WHERE ARE THE ZONES?

You can see map references of Alcohol-Free Zones in Broken Hill on Council's website www.brokenhill.nsw.gov.au.

The following Alcohol-Free Zones are established for a period of four years and include all public roads, footpaths and public car parks in the bounded areas; with the exception of any businesses in the Alcohol-Free Zone, with an approved liquor licence and approved outdoor dining.

Central Business District (CBD) – Area generally bounded by Crystal, Iodide (Wolfram), Mica, Talc (Mercury), Graphite and Wills Streets: with expansion to include Gypsum and Gaffney Streets and South Road.

South Broken Hill – Bounded by Bonanza, Patton, Central and Hebbard Streets, including South Street from Piper Street through to Wilson Street; with expansion to zone along Bonanza Street, from Patton Street to Morish Street; and a section of Wilson Street, between Bonanza and Picton Streets.

Shell Memorial – Bounded by Thomas, Bromide, Mica and Iodide Streets including Oxide Street from Thomas Street through to Morgan Street.

E.T. Lamb Memorial Oval – Bounded by Boughtman, South, Jamieson and Comstock Streets.

Creedon Street – Bounded by the area of Creedon Street between Rakow and Wills Streets.

PARKS AND RESERVES – Section 632A of the *Local Government Act 1993* provides councils with the power to declare any public place (or part of a public place) in the council area to be an **Alcohol-Prohibited Area**. These areas are signposted. Alcohol-Prohibited Areas in the City are: Sturt Park; Patton Park; Queen Elizabeth Park; E.T. Lamb Memorial Oval; Norm Fox Sporting Complex; Gasworks Reserve.

YOUR BEHAVIOUR IN ALCOHOL-FREE ZONES

IS ALCOHOL PROHIBITED AT ALL TIMES IN AN ALCOHOL-FREE ZONE?

Yes. Unless you are in a licenced café or restaurant with approved outdoor dining, you cannot consume alcohol in an Alcohol-Free Zone at any time.

CAN I CARRY ALCOHOL IN AN ALCOHOL-FREE ZONE?

Yes. You can carry alcohol through a zone if the bottle is unopened and you are going to a private property.

CAN ALCOHOL BE CONSUMED ON THE FOOTPATH OUTSIDE A PRIVATE PROPERTY?

No. Footpaths are public places.

CAN I CONSUME ALCOHOL IN A VEHICLE IN AN ALCOHOL-FREE ZONE?

No. You cannot consume alcohol in a vehicle parked in Alcohol-Free Zone.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I SEE A SIGN HAS BEEN DAMAGED, STOLEN OR DEFACED?

Call Council on 08 8080 3300 or email council@brokenhill.nsw.gov.au and report to Council's Customer Relations team.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I SEE PEOPLE DRINKING IN AN ALCOHOL-FREE ZONE AND I AM CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR BEHAVIOUR?

Call the Police on 131 444 or your local Police Station if you see people drinking in a public place and they are participating in antisocial behaviour, or look like they might do so.