

14 September 2026

At the conclusion of the Environment and Climate Change
Committee

Community Services and Facilities Committee

Agenda

- 1. Confirmation of Minutes**
- 2. Statement of Ethical Obligations and Disclosures of Interest**
- 3. Post Exhibition - Outdoor Alcohol Restrictions**

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1. Register to speak by calling Secretariat on 9265 9702 or emailing secretariat@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au before 10:00am on the day of the meeting.
2. Check the recommendation in the Committee report before speaking, as it may address your concerns so that you just need to indicate your support for the recommendation.
3. Note that there is a 3 minute time limit for each speaker (with a warning bell at 2 minutes) and prepare your presentation to cover your major points within that time.
4. Avoid repeating what previous speakers have said and focus on issues and information that the Committee may not already know.
5. If there is a large number of people interested in the same item as you, try to nominate 3 representatives to speak on your behalf and to indicate how many people they are representing.

Committee meetings can continue until very late, particularly when there is a long agenda and a large number of speakers. This impacts on speakers who have to wait until very late, as well as City staff and Councillors who are required to remain focused and alert until very late. At the start of each Committee meeting, the Committee Chair may reorder agenda items so that those items with speakers can be dealt with first.

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Item 1.

Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the following meetings of the Community Services and Facilities Committee are submitted for confirmation:

Meeting of 17 August 2026

Item 2.**Statement of Ethical Obligations**

In accordance with section 233A of the Local Government Act 1993, the Lord Mayor and Councillors are bound by the Oath or Affirmation of Office made at the start of the Council term to undertake their civic duties in the best interests of the people of the City of Sydney and the City of Sydney Council and to faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in them under the Local Government Act 1993 or any other Act, to the best of their ability and judgement.

Disclosures of Interest

Pursuant to the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993, the City of Sydney Code of Meeting Practice and the City of Sydney Code of Conduct, Councillors are required to disclose and manage both pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in any matter on the agenda for this meeting.

In both cases, the nature of the interest must be disclosed.

This includes receipt of reportable political donations over the previous four years.

Item 3.

Post Exhibition - Outdoor Alcohol Restrictions

File No: X128576

Summary

Within NSW, outdoor alcohol restrictions, including alcohol-free zones and alcohol-prohibited areas, may be used by local councils (either of their own initiative or at the request of NSW Police or community members) to prohibit alcohol consumption in public places to reduce anti-social behaviour and crime. Council can resolve to establish an outdoor alcohol restriction for a maximum of 4 years or on a temporary basis for special events.

At its meeting on 28 April 2026, Council approved the 30-day public exhibition of the proposed alcohol prohibited areas (24 hours a day, 7 days a week) in Bourke Street Park, Tom Uren Place and Walla Mulla Park in Woolloomooloo for up to 4-years. Noting the existing alcohol prohibited areas at these locations currently apply from 10pm to 10am, 7 days a week.

A total of 57 submissions were received during the public exhibition period which took place Thursday 21 May 2026 to Friday 3 July 2026. Based on the feedback received this report recommends the establishment of alcohol prohibited areas that apply 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in Bourke Street Park, Tom Uren Place and Walla Mulla Park in Woolloomooloo up to 21 August 2028, which is the current expiration date of all existing outdoor alcohol restrictions within the City of Sydney Local Government Area.

At its meeting on 29 June 2026, Council approved the 30-day public exhibition of proposed alcohol prohibited areas (24-hours a day, 7 days a week) in Taylor Square North, Darlinghurst, McKee Street Reserve and Mary Ann Street Park, Ultimo for up to 4-years. Noting the existing alcohol prohibited area at Taylor Square North currently applies from 10pm to 10am, 7 days a week. There are currently no outdoor alcohol restrictions in McKee Street Reserve or Mary Ann Park, Ultimo.

A total of 12 submissions were received for each of these 3 locations during the public exhibition period which took place between Monday 20 July and Wednesday 19 August 2026. Based on the feedback received this report does not recommend that Council make any changes to the existing alcohol prohibited areas in Taylor Square North, Darlinghurst or establish alcohol prohibited areas in Mary Ann Street Park or McKee Street Reserve.

All submissions were assessed through internal review with reference to the criteria approved by Council on 29 June 2026 and which is included at paragraph 5 below.

The public exhibition processes were undertaken in accordance with Section 644A of the Local Government Act 1993.

The City will continue to monitor the impacts of alcohol consumption in the public domain and work closely with NSW Health and local community organisations to support harm minimisation approaches across our local government area. In addition, the City intends to commence a review of all existing outdoor alcohol restrictions prior to the current expiration date of 21 August 2028 in accordance with the new criteria approved by Council in June 2026 that will inform those areas to be placed on public exhibition.

Recommendation

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council note the submissions received from community on the proposed alcohol prohibited areas as summarised in Attachments C and D to the subject report
- (B) Council approve the establishment of alcohol-prohibited areas that apply 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in Bourke Street Park, Tom Uren Place and Walla Mulla Reserve, Woolloomooloo up to 21 August 2028
- (C) Council does not make any changes to the existing alcohol-prohibited area in and Taylor Square North, Darlinghurst which applies from 10am to 10pm, 7 days a week, prior to the current expiration date of 21 August 2028
- (D) Council does not establish alcohol-prohibited areas in Mary Ann Street Park or McKee Street Reserve, Ultimo
- (E) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive officer to correct minor errors to the matters set out in this report not impacting the locations of proposed alcohol restrictions.

Attachments

Attachment A.	Resolution of Council - Item 8.3 - Public Exhibition Outdoor Alcohol Restrictions - 28 April 2026
Attachment B.	Resolution of Council - Item 10.3 - Public Exhibition Outdoor Alcohol Restrictions - 29 June 2026
Attachment C.	Engagement report - Woolloomooloo - Proposed outdoor alcohol restrictions
Attachment D.	Engagement report - Darlinghurst and Ultimo - Proposed outdoor alcohol restrictions
Attachment E.	Maps - Post exhibition - Outdoor alcohol restrictions

Background

1. In accordance with the Local Government Act 1993, the City of Sydney considers all new and valid applications for outdoor alcohol restrictions. These restrictions include alcohol-free zones which apply to public roads, footpaths and public carparks and alcohol prohibited areas which apply to parks and civic spaces. Council can resolve to establish an outdoor alcohol restriction for a maximum of 4 years or on a temporary basis for special events.
2. Alcohol-free zones apply 24 hours a day. Alcohol-prohibited areas can apply 24 hours a day or be timed where alcohol consumption is prohibited within designated times.
3. NSW Police are responsible for enforcing outdoor alcohol restrictions. The Local Government Act 1993 provides that NSW Police can confiscate and tip out alcohol where it is being consumed in an alcohol-free zone or alcohol-prohibited area. There are no fines or recorded offences associated with drinking alcohol in a designated area, however the refusal to comply can result in a Police-issued charge and/or fine for obstruction.
4. Under the Law Enforcement (Powers and Responsibilities) Act (LEPRA) 2002, the NSW Police have other powers for managing alcohol-related crime and antisocial behaviour, however these can result in fines and/or detainment.
5. At the Council meeting on 29 June 2026, it was resolved that:
 - (A) *Council approve the criteria used to develop the revised list of proposed alcohol-free zones and alcohol-prohibited areas on City streets and public spaces noting that for an area to be placed on public exhibition it must meet both of the following criteria:*
 - (i) *locations with increasing incidents of alcohol-related crime and assaults outdoors – these were identified using NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research crime data for alcohol-related (24 hour) assaults for the previous 3 calendar years;*
 - (ii) *areas of concern as identified by NSW Police and/or community - this includes locations where there are persistent and ongoing concerns that the consumption of alcohol is impacting on community wellbeing, public safety and amenity; and*
 - (iii) *Council reserves the right to put an area on exhibition outside of the criteria if there is strong community support or other significant circumstances arise;*
 - (B) *Council recognises that alcohol-free zones and alcohol-prohibited areas should be applied in a way that avoids unfair impacts, including discrimination, over-policing, or increased criminalisation of particular groups, such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and public housing tenants.*

Locations in Woolloomooloo

6. On 28 April 2026, Council approved the 30-day public exhibition of the proposed alcohol prohibited areas (24 hours a day / 7 days a week) in Bourke Street Park, Tom Uren Place and Walla Mulla Park, Woolloomooloo for up to 4-years.
7. Currently the alcohol prohibited areas in these 3 locations operate from 10pm to 10am, 7 days a week only.
8. It should be noted that when Council approved the public exhibition of these 3 locations in Woolloomooloo, they only met criteria (ii) above. These areas did not meet criteria (i) as the BOCSAR crime data indicated a decreasing number of alcohol-related (24 hour) assaults for the previous 3-year period in Woolloomooloo.
9. Subsequently, on 29 June 2026, Council resolved to add criteria (iii) above, which was also met by these 3 locations.
10. A total of 57 submissions were received during the public exhibition period. A summary of the issues raised in the submissions is provided in the Engagement report at Attachment C.
11. Approximately 90% of the 57 submissions received supported the proposal. Those in support of the proposal noted that alcohol-related disturbances and anti-social behaviour occurs across all hours of the day and evening and raised concerns about perceptions of reduced personal safety and a decline in public amenity in the area. It should be noted that residents have consistently raised similar concerns at Police Community Safety Committee meetings and the Lord Mayor's Woolloomooloo Community Forums.
12. NSW Police supported the proposal and noted that the current timed alcohol restrictions may limit opportunities for proactive intervention and allow alcohol-related issues to escalate before enforcement action can be taken. They also indicated the planned re-opening of Woolloomooloo Police Station is expected to strengthen the local policing presence.
13. However, submissions received from local service providers including Aboriginal Legal Service, Inner City Legal Service and St Vincent de Paul Society expressed strong opposition to the proposal indicating it could unfairly impact marginalised groups through discrimination, over-policing, or increased criminalisation. These organisations submitted that the proposal does not address the underlying causes of homelessness, mental ill-health or alcohol and drug dependency and any change to outdoor alcohol restrictions needs to align with harm minimisation principles.
14. Based on the feedback received and the support for this proposal, this report recommends that Council approve the establishment of alcohol prohibited areas that apply 24 hours a day, 7 days week in Bourke Street Park, Tom Uren Place and Walla Mulla Park in Woolloomooloo up to 21 August 2028, which is the current expiration date of all existing outdoor alcohol restrictions within the City of Sydney Local Government Area.

15. However, as outlined by local service providers it should be noted these restrictions may have unfair impacts including discrimination, over-policing, or increased criminalisation of particular groups, such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, public housing tenants and people experiencing homelessness. Any confirmed impacts of this nature will be included in consideration of any proposed renewal of the restrictions in 2028.

Locations in Darlinghurst and Ultimo

16. On 29 June 2026, Council approved the 30-day public exhibition of the proposed alcohol prohibited areas (24 hours a day / 7 days a week) in Taylor Square North, Darlinghurst, Mary Ann Street Park and McKee Street Reserve, Ultimo for up to 4-years. The locations met criteria (i) and (ii) above. Noting the existing alcohol prohibited area in Taylor Square North currently applies from 10pm to 10am, 7 days a week.
17. A total of 12 submissions were received for each of these 3 locations during the public exhibition period. A summary of the issues raised in the submissions is provided in the Engagement report at Attachment D.

Taylor Square North, Darlinghurst

18. Feedback on the proposal for Taylor Square North in Darlinghurst was divided. Those in support of the proposal, including Police, outlined concerns for community safety and noted anti-social behaviour linked to public space consumption of alcohol regularly occurring during daylight hours. Whilst those against the proposal indicated the Police have other powers to deal with people who are publicly intoxicated and/or disorderly.
19. Based on the low number of submissions and feedback received, there is not sufficient evidence to indicate that changing the existing outdoor alcohol restrictions would reduce alcohol-related assaults and/or homophobic and transphobic crimes committed by intoxicated people within the public domain.
20. Therefore, this report recommends that Council does not make any changes to the existing alcohol prohibited area, that currently applies from 10pm to 10am, 7 days a week, at Taylor Square North.
21. It is noted that improving safety in and around the Oxford Street precinct, including Taylor Square North, is better addressed by collaborating with Police, local businesses and community to activate and strengthen the precinct as a vibrant, inclusive and culturally significant place where LGBTIQ+ people feel welcome and safe.

Mary Ann Street Park and McKee Street Reserve, Ultimo

22. Feedback on the proposal for Mary Ann Street Park and McKee Street Reserve reflected a range of views. Those in support of the proposals, including Police, outlined concerns about community safety and noted the benefits of reducing noise, discouraging disruptive gatherings and preserving residential amenity. Some respondents noted that McKee Street Reserve is adjacent to a pre-school and there is a playground and community garden located in the park.

23. Those that opposed the proposal noted these public spaces were appropriate for picnics with moderate alcohol consumption. Some respondents noted they had never witnessed alcohol consumption or inappropriate behaviour in these parks.
24. Through the feedback there was not a clear indication that alcohol consumption was resulting in anti-social behaviour and/or alcohol-related assaults in these public spaces and therefore there is not sufficient justification for establishing outdoor alcohol restrictions in these areas.
25. Based on the low number of submissions and feedback received, there is not sufficient justification for imposing outdoor alcohol restrictions in these areas and this report recommends that Council does not establish alcohol prohibited areas in Mary Ann Street Park or McKee Street Reserve.

Key implications

Strategic alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision

26. Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision renews the communities' vision for the sustainable development of the city to 2050. It includes 10 strategic directions to guide the future of the city, as well as 10 targets against which to measure progress. This report is aligned with the following strategic directions and objectives:
 - (a) Direction 7 - Resilient and diverse communities - Objective 7.5 People feel safe in the City

Risks

27. We acknowledge the diverse expectations of our stakeholders in how we manage public places, including the community, businesses, ratepayers, regulatory bodies and elected officials. Our risk appetite seeks to manage public places for the benefit of the community, whilst being prepared to implement change. Outdoor alcohol restrictions are part of a larger program for managing alcohol consumption in the public domain.
28. We recognise that health and safety risks are inherent in all our activities and in the public domain for which we are responsible. We acknowledge that achieving a risk-free environment is not feasible, especially in the public domain. The City has a minimal risk appetite where the risks associated with activities can be effectively mitigated. The public exhibition process gave community, local business, local community organisations and NSW Police an opportunity to provide feedback on the list of proposed outdoor alcohol restrictions. This feedback received informed the proposed approach to maintaining public safety and amenity.

Social / Cultural / Community

29. The enforcement of alcohol restrictions can disproportionately impact priority communities who consume alcohol in public places and for whom liquor licensed premises are prohibitive due to cost and access. The establishment of alcohol restrictions require evidence informed balance for managing alcohol-related impacts, antisocial behaviour and crime.

30. The City is collaborating with NSW government agencies and local community organisations to develop strategic responses to the health impacts of alcohol use for priority communities, including people experiencing homelessness and social housing residents
31. The City continues to work with community legal centres, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisations, community groups, social housing residents, local business and NSW Government agencies to determine appropriate strategies for managing alcohol consumption in the public domain.

Economic

32. Outdoor alcohol restrictions aim to reduce antisocial behaviour and increase public safety and amenity. Maintaining and promoting Sydney's safety can contribute to increased economic prosperity; create a thriving, globally connected community; and further enhance Sydney's international reputation as a great place to visit, live, work, invest and study.
33. The City of Sydney supports a safe and vibrant night-time economy including the consumption of alcohol in managed locations such as liquor licensed premises and alfresco dining areas where the responsible service of alcohol is practiced. Liquor licensed areas, including footway licenses and liquor licensed areas at outdoor events are exempt from outdoor alcohol restrictions

Financial implications

34. Sufficient funds are available for any signage updates required for new or changed outdoor alcohol restrictions in the operational budget for the 2026/27 financial year.
35. Funding for updates, installation or removal of signage is included in the City Infrastructure and Traffic Operations capital works budget.

Relevant legislation

36. Local Government Act 1993.
37. Liquor Act 2007.
38. Roads Act 1993.

Critical dates / Time frames

39. Outdoor alcohol restrictions are established by a resolution of Council for a period of up to 4 years. All outdoor alcohol restrictions currently will expire on 20 August 2028.

Options

40. Establish all of the proposed outdoor alcohol restrictions - this is not recommended given that on 29 June 2026, Council resolved that alcohol-free zones and alcohol-prohibited areas should be applied in a way that considers the criteria as per this report, as well as avoiding unfair impacts, including discrimination, over-policing, or increased criminalisation of particular groups, such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and public housing tenants.
41. Establish none of the proposed outdoor alcohol restrictions - Council may decide to defer any further decision to impose or increase outdoor alcohol restrictions until a review of all existing restrictions is undertaken prior to the current expiration date of 21 August 2028 in accordance with the new criteria approved by Council in June 2026. However, this is not recommended given local residents and NSW Police have raised serious and ongoing concerns the inadequacy of current outdoor alcohol restrictions at the 3 locations in Woolloomooloo given that alcohol-related disturbances and anti-social behaviour within the public domain are occurring across all hours of the day and evening.

Public consultation

42. As part of the public exhibition period the following stakeholder and community engagement activities were undertaken.
 - (a) A survey was conducted on Sydney Your Say for the proposed outdoor alcohol restrictions in Bourke Street Park, Tom Uren Place and Walla Mulla Reserve, Woolloomooloo from 21 May 2026 to Friday 3 July 2026 and was advertised in the Sydney Your Say emailed newsletter and on the City of Sydney website.
 - (b) A survey was conducted on Sydney Your Say for the proposed outdoor alcohol restrictions in Taylor Square North, Darlinghurst, McKee Street Reserve, Ultimo and Mary Ann Street Park, Ultimo from 20 July and 19 August 2026 and was advertised in the Sydney Your Say emailed newsletter and on the City of Sydney website.
 - (c) Written notification about the public exhibition period was sent to local residents, community groups, government agencies and business representatives, including social housing residents, Aboriginal community-controlled organisations, community legal centres, homelessness services, health services, faith-based groups, LGBTIQ+ community organisations, community and resident groups, local business chambers and liquor premises.
 - (d) Written notification was sent to all residents in Woolloomooloo inviting feedback on the proposal for the alcohol prohibited areas in Bourke Street Park, Tom Uren Place and Walla Mulla Reserve to apply 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

- (e) Signs were posted in McKee Street Reserve and Mary Ann Street Park, Ultimo notifying the local community about the consultation process.
- (f) Only those local councils identified in Appendix 2 of the Ministerial Guidelines on Alcohol Free Zones, August 2025 are required to send a copy of their proposed alcohol-free zones to the NSW Anti-Discrimination Board. No Councils are currently listed in Appendix 2. However, the City notified the NSW Anti-Discrimination Board about the proposed alcohol prohibited areas during the public consultation process.

EMMA RIGNEY

Executive Director City Life

Julie Giuffre, Manager City Economy and Safety

Attachment A

**Resolution of Council – Item 8.3 – Public
Exhibition – Outdoor Alcohol Restrictions
28 April 2026**

Resolution of Council

28 April 2026

Item 8.3

Public Exhibition - Outdoor Alcohol Restrictions

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council note the outcomes of the assessment undertaken by City staff of the effectiveness of outdoor alcohol restrictions based on an analysis of a full 12 months of data provided by NSW Police and the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research;
- (B) Council approve the 30-day public exhibition of the proposed alcohol-free zones and alcohol prohibited areas in Woolloomooloo for a 4-year period as outlined in Attachments B and C to the subject report;
- (C) Council defer consideration of the 30-day public exhibition of the remaining proposed alcohol-free zones and alcohol prohibited areas on City streets and public places for a 4-year period as outlined in Attachments B and C to the subject report; and
- (D) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to prepare a further report for Councillors regarding the remaining applications for potential alcohol-free zones and alcohol prohibited areas, prior to the consideration of public exhibition.

Carried unanimously.

X128576

Attachment B

**Resolution of Council – Item 10.3 – Post
Exhibition – Outdoor Alcohol Restrictions
29 June 2026**

Resolution of Council

29 June 2026

Item 10.3

Public Exhibition - Outdoor Alcohol Restrictions

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council approve the criteria used to develop the revised list of proposed alcohol-free zones and alcohol-prohibited areas on City streets and public spaces noting that for an area to be placed on public exhibition it must meet both of the following criteria:
 - (i) locations with increasing incidents of alcohol-related crime and assaults outdoors – these were identified using NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research crime data for alcohol-related (24 hour) assaults for the previous 3 calendar years;
 - (ii) areas of concern as identified by NSW Police and/or community - this includes locations where there are persistent and ongoing concerns that the consumption of alcohol is impacting on community wellbeing, public safety and amenity; and
 - (iii) Council reserves the right to put an area on exhibition outside of the criteria if there is strong community support or other significant circumstances arise;
- (B) Council recognises that alcohol-free zones and alcohol-prohibited areas should be applied in a way that avoids unfair impacts, including discrimination, over-policing, or increased criminalisation of particular groups, such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and public housing tenants;
- (C) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to investigate and report back to Council with information on how alcohol-free zones and alcohol-prohibited areas can be removed from locations within 100 metres of:
 - (i) dedicated public, social and affordable housing developments; and
 - (ii) Special Entertainment Precincts;

- (D) Council approve the 30-day public exhibition of the following proposed alcohol-free zones and alcohol-prohibited areas on City streets and public places for a 4-year period:
 - (i) Taylor Square North, Darlinghurst – Alcohol Prohibited Area (24 hours / 7 days)
 - (ii) McKee Street Reserve, Ultimo – Alcohol Prohibited Area (24 hours / 7 days)
 - (iii) Mary Ann Street Park, Ultimo – Alcohol Prohibited Area (24 hours / 7 days)
- (E) Council does not approve all the remaining applications for outdoor alcohol restrictions referred to in the subject report and Attachments; and
- (F) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to correct minor errors to the matters set out in this report, noting that the locations of the alcohol-free zones and alcohol-prohibited areas will not change prior to the public exhibition period commencing.

The motion, as varied by consent, was carried unanimously.

X128576

Attachment C

**Engagement report – Woolloomooloo –
Proposed outdoor alcohol restrictions**

Engagement report - proposed outdoor alcohol restrictions in Woolloomooloo



Overview

Background

In accordance with its legislative obligations under the Local Government Act 1993, the City considers valid applications for outdoor alcohol restrictions. These restrictions include alcohol-free zones which apply to public roads, footpaths and public carparks and alcohol prohibited areas which apply to parks and civic spaces. Council can resolve to establish an outdoor alcohol restriction for a maximum of four years or on a temporary basis for special events.

Alcohol-free zones apply to public roads and footpaths, 24 hours a day, seven days per week. Alcohol-prohibited areas apply to parks and civic spaces and can be timed.

Engagement summary

At its meeting on 28 April 2026, Council approved the 30-day public exhibition of the proposed alcohol-free zones and alcohol prohibited areas in Woolloomooloo.

The public exhibition process was undertaken in accordance with Section 644A of the Local Government Act 1993 which outlines the consultation requirements to establish alcohol restrictions. The public exhibition period took place from Thursday 21 May 2026 to Friday 3 July 2026, which exceeded the required 30-day public exhibition period.

Consultation on the proposed plan provided stakeholders and the wider community with an opportunity to review the proposal and provide feedback.

Consultation included:

- A letter distributed to all addresses in the suburb of Woolloomooloo.
 - Publication of the proposal on Sydney Your Say.
 - An email notification sent to all key stakeholders including outreach and legal services.
-

Purpose of engagement

The purpose of engagement was to invite feedback from residents, community groups, organisations, local businesses and government agencies on proposed changes to alcohol prohibited areas in Bourke Street Park, Tom Uren Place and Walla Mulla Reserve in Woolloomooloo. Current outdoor alcohol restrictions are timed and apply from 10pm to 10am, seven days a week. The proposal is to increase the timed outdoor alcohol restrictions so that they apply 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Outcomes of engagement

The following is a snapshot of the outcomes from the engagement.

Submissions received during Thursday 21 May 2026 to Friday 3 July 2026 consultation

A total of 57 submissions were received via the online survey and email during the public exhibition period. The Sydney Your Say page was visited 345 times during the consultation period.

Six submissions were made on behalf of local community organisations and government agencies:

1. Aboriginal Legal Service – Against
2. Hope Street - Baptist Care Woolloomooloo – Support
3. Inner Sydney Legal Service – Against
4. Kings Cross Police Area Command - Support
5. NSW Health (Kirketon Road Centre) – Comment only
6. St Vincent de Paul - Against

Submissions and engagement activity

Quantity	Description of activity
57	Total submissions received
46	Survey submissions
11	Emailed submissions received from community organisations / stakeholders
345	Sydney Your Say webpage visits
3606	Sydney your Say email mail out (reach)

Key findings

Overview of key findings –

Do you support the proposed outdoor alcohol restriction - 24 hours a day, seven days a week

Location	Support (Yes)	Against (No)	Comment Only
Bourke Street Park	50	6	1
Tom Uren Place	49	7	1
Walla Mulla Park	50	6	1

Key themes in support of proposed outdoor alcohol restriction - 24 hours a day, seven days a week

Personal safety – 24 Submissions

Respondents reported feeling unsafe in and around these locations due to intimidation, aggressive behaviour, public intoxication and violence. Many avoided the areas, particularly after dark, and believed 24-hour outdoor alcohol restrictions would improve community safety.

- "Tom Uren Place is a very intimidating area for people to pass through."
- "I am now genuinely concerned for my personal safety."
- "It will be an important step towards creating a safer community environment."

Reduction of antisocial behaviour – 23 Submissions

Respondents linked alcohol consumption to ongoing antisocial behaviour in these locations, including public intoxication, aggression, fighting and verbal abuse. Many supported the proposed changes to the outdoor alcohol restrictions and believed they would reduce disturbances and improve public amenity.

- "The current anti-social behaviour in these three locations is out of control."
- "Since the restrictions were lifted, antisocial behaviour has increased."
- "Alcohol abuse, public disturbance and antisocial behaviour."

Improved access to local services – 10 Submissions

Respondents reported avoiding local parks, shops, transport stops and services due to safety concerns and believed the proposed outdoor alcohol restrictions would make public spaces more accessible and welcoming.

- "Unable to go to the corner shop, chemist and doctors because we do not feel safe."
- "Patients who won't come here anymore due to the fear they feel."
- "Members of the community are no longer able to comfortably use the park."

Improved local amenity – 8 Submissions

Respondents believed local conditions had worsened since the previous 24-hour restrictions had expired and timed restrictions which apply from 10pm to 10am were established, citing increased litter, waste and alcohol-related impacts. Many viewed the proposal as restoring effective management of the area.

- "Increase of needles and glass from the bottles on the ground."
- "Human waste, empty cans, broken glass and drug paraphernalia."
- "It stinks due to people urinating."

Key themes against proposed outdoor alcohol restriction - 24 hours a day, seven days a week

Disproportionate impact on people who are homeless and priority populations – 5 Submissions

Respondents argued the proposed restrictions would disproportionately impact Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People, people experiencing homelessness and/or systemic social disadvantage. Many felt the proposal could further marginalise groups without addressing underlying social and health issues.

- "This proposal unfairly targets and discriminates against homeless people."
- "The disproportionate impact of this proposal on already marginalised cohorts."
- "A significant number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people use these public spaces."

Increased Police intervention – 5 Submissions

Respondents viewed the proposal as a law enforcement response that could increase police interactions with vulnerable community members. Many expressed concern that the restrictions may be punitive and lead to greater policing without addressing underlying causes.

- "Universal alcohol bans are inherently punitive."
- "Will lead to over policing of a community who are already very visible to law enforcement."
- "Alcohol restrictions have too often served as a pretext for police to interact with our clients."

Limited evidence that restrictions reduce antisocial behaviour – 4 Submissions

Respondents questioned the effectiveness of the proposed restrictions, arguing there is limited evidence they reduce antisocial behaviour or improve safety. Several noted that police already have powers to address disruptive conduct.

- "The City's own review found no evidence that they decreased antisocial behaviour."
- "This proposal will not materially improve enforcement outcomes."
- "NSW Police have a very broad range of powers available."

Preference for harm reduction approaches – 4 Submissions

Respondents supported addressing alcohol-related issues through housing, health and social support services rather than restrictions. Many argued that long-term outcomes are better achieved through treatment, support and harm minimisation measures.

- "The most effective approach must be health-led, person-centred and trauma informed."
- "Explicitly opposed to an interdisciplinary solutions required by issues of addiction."
- "Punitive outcomes that do not resolve social problems of homelessness."

Summary of key themes

Consultation feedback reflected differing views on how alcohol-related issues can be addressed. Supporters generally viewed the proposed 24-hour alcohol restrictions as a way to improve safety, reduce antisocial behaviour and improve access to public spaces and local services.

Opponents argued the restrictions could disproportionately impact socially disadvantaged groups, questioned their effectiveness, and raised concerns about increased police intervention. Many advocated for health, housing and harm reduction approaches instead.

While both perspectives acknowledged alcohol-related challenges in the area, they differed on whether 24-hour outdoor alcohol restrictions are the most appropriate response.

The perspectives of people who consume alcohol in these public spaces are underrepresented in the consultation. The organisations that work directly with people who drink alcohol in the locations are best positioned to advocate for and reflect their experiences in the absence of direct consultation.

Submissions from organisations and NSW Police Force

Aboriginal Legal Service (ALS)

The Aboriginal Legal Service (ALS) advised that it opposes the proposal, consistent with its position on previous initiatives to extend or increase alcohol restrictions within the City of Sydney.

ALS noted that the affected public spaces are regularly used by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and are located near key support services, including Matthew Talbot Hostel, and the Kirketon Road Centre. ALS expressed concern that outdoor alcohol restrictions can facilitate increased police interactions with vulnerable community members, which may escalate into criminal legal action despite the legislation being limited to alcohol confiscation and disposal powers.

ALS further advised that it continues to represent clients charged with low-level public order offences arising from proactive police engagement in public spaces. It highlighted that NSW Police data indicates that Aboriginal people are disproportionately subject to stop and search powers and criminal charges, with heightened impacts on Aboriginal young people, people experiencing homelessness, and those with mental health conditions or cognitive impairments.

ALS considers that the proposed restrictions may contribute to the over-representation of Aboriginal people in the criminal justice system and are inconsistent with commitments under the NSW Closing the Gap Partnership Agreement to reduce Aboriginal over-representation in the legal system

BaptistCare HopeStreet (Woolloomooloo)

BaptistCare HopeStreet supports the proposed 24-hour alcohol restrictions. As a service provider located in the immediate area, it is aware of the impacts of alcohol consumption on residents, people experiencing homelessness and the broader community.

Inner City Legal Centre (ICLC)

Inner City Legal Centre (ICLC) advised that it does not support the proposal, consistent with the feedback it and other legal services provided during the comprehensive review on outdoor alcohol restrictions undertaken by the City of Sydney in 2024.

ICLC noted that Woolloomooloo has a high concentration of social housing, homelessness services and community organisations supporting people experiencing homelessness, rough

sleeping and housing instability. While acknowledging the City's ongoing efforts to support the community and maintain a safe and clean environment, ICLC stated that NSW Police already have extensive powers to address anti-social behaviour, including move-on directions, infringement notices and criminal enforcement powers.

ICLC expressed the view that extending alcohol restrictions in Woolloomooloo would not address the underlying challenges faced by community members. It raised concerns that the proposal could result in increased policing of people experiencing homelessness and lead to punitive outcomes that do not address the underlying causes of homelessness, mental ill-health or alcohol and drug dependency.

ICLC further argued that the proposal may disproportionately impact people experiencing homelessness by restricting the public consumption of a legal substance in areas where they are known to congregate. It noted that some neighbouring local government areas do not have alcohol restrictions and instead address alcohol-related issues through alternative approaches aimed at improving community safety. Accordingly, ICLC does not support the proposed extension of alcohol restrictions.

NSW Health (Kirketon Road Centre)

NSW Health advises that it delivers regular outreach services in Woolloomooloo within a harm reduction framework. NSW Health emphasises the importance of ensuring any changes outdoor alcohol restrictions needs to align with harm minimisation principles and support broader community wellbeing outcomes. NSW Health also notes the need to ensure that any restrictions do not inadvertently discourage or displace vulnerable individuals from accessing essential health, social and support services.

NSW Police Force

Police advise that ongoing anti-social behaviour in and around Tom Uren Square, Walla Mulla Park and Bourke Street Park remains a significant concern for the local community. Reported incidents include offensive conduct, alcohol-related disturbances, drug-related activity and other criminal offences, contributing to perceptions of reduced safety and a decline in the amenity of these public spaces.

Concerns have also been identified regarding the current timed alcohol restrictions, which apply between 10:00pm and 10:00am. These arrangements may limit opportunities for proactive intervention and allow alcohol-related issues to escalate before enforcement action can be taken.

Police advised that the original intent of permitting responsible public alcohol consumption is not being achieved in these locations. Strong community support exists for the introduction of 24-hour, seven-day-a-week outdoor alcohol restrictions with anticipated benefits including improved public safety, reduced anti-social behaviour, and increased community use and enjoyment of public spaces.

Police acknowledge their ongoing efforts to improve community safety through collaboration with local homelessness service providers and the City of Sydney. The planned reopening of Woolloomooloo Police Station, currently undergoing refurbishment, is expected to strengthen the local policing presence. In addition, a multi-agency working group has been established to coordinate responses and develop longer-term solutions for the area.

Police note they give full support is given to the implementation of a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week outdoor alcohol restrictions in Tom Uren Square, Walla Mulla Park and Bourke Street Park. This position is supported by ongoing community concerns, the established association between alcohol consumption and anti-social behaviour in these locations, and the need to complement existing community safety and place management initiatives.

St Vincent de Paul Society NSW

St Vincent de Paul Society NSW (Vinnies NSW) outlined its longstanding involvement in the Woolloomooloo community through the operation of the Matthew Talbot Hostel, Matthew

Talbot Hostel Primary Health Clinic and the Ozanam Learning Centre, which provide support to people experiencing homelessness, disadvantage and social exclusion.

Vinnies NSW expressed opposition to the proposed 24-hour outdoor alcohol restrictions in Bourke Street Park, Tom Uren Square and Walla Mulla Park. Concerns were raised regarding the potential impacts on vulnerable community members, particularly people experiencing homelessness, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and low-income residents. Vinnies NSW submitted that a universal alcohol prohibition may have a disproportionate impact on already marginalised cohorts and could be perceived as a punitive response.

Further concerns were raised that a 24-hour restriction may displace alcohol consumption to indoor settings or more isolated locations, potentially increasing health and social harms and reducing opportunities for engagement with support services. Vinnies NSW also noted potential impacts on housing stability, social connections and access to health and support services. Frontline staff anticipated that displacement of activity may result in increased anti-social behaviour and related health incidents in the vicinity of the Ozanam Learning Centre and Matthew Talbot Hostel.

Vinnies NSW submitted that existing alcohol restrictions and current enforcement powers are sufficient to address anti-social behaviour in the area and considered that the proposed changes would be unlikely to materially improve enforcement outcomes.

Vinnies NSW advocated for a health-led, person-centred and trauma-informed approach to addressing anti-social behaviour, supported by coordinated service responses, intensive case management and greater integration between health, housing and social support services. Vinnies NSW recommended that the current alcohol restrictions be maintained and emphasised the importance of harm reduction and consideration of the social determinants of health, including housing and homelessness, when developing community responses to alcohol and other drug use.

Note

Anti-Discrimination New South Wales (ADNSW)

Anti-Discrimination NSW (ADNSW) was notified of the proposal. In its response, ADNSW advised that, in August 2025, the Office of Local Government amended the Ministerial Guidelines for Alcohol Free Zones (the Guidelines). The updated Guidelines no longer identify any councils that are required to consult ADNSW in relation to Alcohol Free Zone (AFZ) or Alcohol Prohibited Area (APA) proposals under sections 644A(3) and 646(3) of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW). It also noted that it does not have the resources or operational capacity to undertake such reviews.

Attachment D

**Engagement report – Darlinghurst and
Ultimo – Proposed outdoor alcohol
restrictions**

Engagement report - proposed outdoor alcohol restrictions in Darlinghurst and Ultimo



Overview

Background

In accordance with its legislative obligations under the Local Government Act 1993, the City considers valid applications for outdoor alcohol restrictions. These restrictions include alcohol-free zones which apply to public roads, footpaths and public carparks and alcohol prohibited areas which apply to parks and civic spaces. Council can resolve to establish an outdoor alcohol restriction for a maximum of four years or on a temporary basis for special events.

Alcohol-free zones apply to public roads and footpaths, 24 hours a day, seven days per week. Alcohol-prohibited areas apply to parks and civic spaces and can be timed.

Engagement summary

At its meeting on 28 April 2026, Council approved the 30-day public exhibition of the proposed alcohol prohibited areas in McKee Street Reserve and Mary Ann Street Park, Ultimo and Taylor Square North, Darlinghurst.

The public exhibition process was undertaken in accordance with Section 644A of the Local Government Act 1993 which outlines the consultation requirements to establish alcohol restrictions. The public exhibition period took place from 20 July 2026 to 19 August 2026.

Consultation on the proposed plan provided stakeholders and the wider community with an opportunity to review the proposal and provide feedback.

Consultation included:

- An email notification sent to all key stakeholders including outreach and legal services.
 - A notice placed on the park entry sign of McKee Street Reserve, Ultimo and Mary Ann Street Park, Ultimo.
 - Publication of the proposal on Sydney Your Say.
 - Sydney Your Say engagement email
-

Purpose of engagement

The purpose of engagement was to invite feedback from residents, community groups, organisations, local businesses and government agencies on proposed changes to alcohol prohibited areas. Current alcohol restrictions apply from 10pm to 10am in Taylor Square North, Darlinghurst and the proposal is to increase alcohol restrictions to apply 24 hours a day, seven days a week. There are no current restrictions in McKee Street Reserve, Ultimo and Mary Ann Street Park, Ultimo and the proposal is for outdoor alcohol restrictions to apply 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Outcomes of engagement

The following is a snapshot of the outcomes from the engagement.

Submissions received during 20 July 2026 to 19 August 2026 consultation

Engagement report - proposed outdoor alcohol restrictions in Darlinghurst and Ultimo

A total of 11 submissions were received via the online survey and email during the public exhibition period. The Sydney Your Say page was visited 189 times during the consultation period.

One submission was from the Friends of Ultimo community group via Sydney Your Say

Two email submissions were received from NSW Police:

1. Surry Hills Police Area Command
2. Sydney City Police Area Command

Submissions and engagement activity

Quantity	Description of activity
189	Sydney Your Say webpage visits
3606	Sydney Your Say email mailout (reach)

Key findings

Overview of key findings – Do you support the proposed outdoor alcohol restriction - 24 hours a day, seven days a week

Location	Support (Yes)	Against (No)	No Opinion
Mary Ann Street Park	7	5	0
McKee Street Reserve	9	3	0
Taylor Square North	3	3	6

Key themes in support of proposed outdoor alcohol restriction - 24 hours a day, seven days a week

Noise, Safety and Park Amenity – 6 submissions

Respondents supported restrictions to reduce noise, discourage disruptive gatherings, improve perceptions of safety and maintain the parks in Ultimo as welcoming community spaces.

- “Reduce gatherings which are very noisy and can feel unsafe for locals walking through.” (Ultimo)

Protection of community uses and residential amenity - 2 submissions

Respondents supported restrictions to protect community facilities, recreational uses and residential amenity in and around the parks in Ultimo.

- “McKee Street Reserve is home to a community garden and a children’s playground.” (Ultimo)

Antisocial behaviour and crime - 4 submissions

Respondents supported restrictions to reduce antisocial behaviour, litter and other nuisance activities in the two parks in Ultimo.

- “Having parks alcohol free will help local residents keep them free of antisocial behaviour.” (Ultimo)

Taylor Square North submissions outlined concerns for community safety, intimidation and the Surry Hills Police Area Command outlined incidents of alcohol-related crime

- “Makes the area unsafe and intimidating.” (Taylor Square North)
- “Alcohol-related incidents occur across all times of day, with offending and antisocial behaviour linked to public space consumption of alcohol regularly occurring during daylight hours.” (Taylor Square North)

Key themes against proposed outdoor alcohol restrictions - 24 hours a day, seven days a week

Lack of evidence of issues – 3 submissions

Respondents said they had not observed alcohol-related problems at Mary Ann Park or McKee Street Reserve in Ultimo and questioned whether restrictions were necessary.

- "Never witnessed... any alcohol consumption or inappropriate behaviour." (Ultimo)

Support for responsible alcohol consumption - 1 submission

Respondents considered moderate alcohol consumption to be an appropriate use of Mary Anne Street Park and opposed a blanket prohibition.

- "Mary Anne Street Park is an appropriate place for picnics with moderate alcohol consumption." (Ultimo)

Existing powers are sufficient - 1 submission

Respondents considered further restrictions in Taylor Square North unnecessary and preferred existing enforcement mechanisms.

- "There are already options in place that enable police to deal with people who are publicly intoxicated and/or disorderly." (Taylor Square North)

Summary of key themes

In general, supporters of the outdoor alcohol restrictions cited the benefits of reducing noise, improving community safety and preserving residential amenity, particularly in the Ultimo parks, which are surrounded by homes and community facilities.

Opponents generally questioned whether there was sufficient evidence of alcohol-related issues to justify the establishment of outdoor alcohol restrictions, noting that responsible alcohol consumption can occur without causing problems and there are existing enforcement powers available to Police.

There was overall support for the introduction of outdoor alcohol restrictions in McKee Street Reserve and Mary Ann Street Park in Ultimo. However, in relation to Taylor Square North there were conflicting views about the introduction of outdoor alcohol restrictions in this area, and many respondents did not express an opinion either way.

Submissions from organisations and NSW Police

Friends of Ultimo (Feedback on Ultimo locations)

Friends of Ultimo support outdoor alcohol restrictions in principle where there is evidence that they are necessary to address anti-social behaviour or public safety concerns. However, Friends of Ultimo does not consider there to be sufficient justification for imposing alcohol restrictions in Mary Ann Street Park or McKee Street Reserve, as there is no known evidence of alcohol consumption or other inappropriate behaviour in either of these pocket parks.

McKee Street Reserve primarily serves local families and includes a community garden and children's playground. It is also located adjacent to a kindergarten.

Mary Ann Street Park is a valued local open space that is particularly popular with local dog owners.

Sydney City Police Area Command (Feedback on Ultimo locations)

NSW Police support the proposed Alcohol Prohibited Areas at Mary Ann Street Park and McKee Street Reserve, Ultimo. Police consider alcohol restrictions to be an effective early-intervention measure that helps address public alcohol consumption and prevent alcohol-related antisocial behaviour, disorder, and offending, while enhancing community safety and amenity.

Police support is informed by operational experience and crime data, which indicates that alcohol remains a significant contributor to violence and antisocial behaviour across the Sydney LGA.

In 2025, approximately one-third of assault offences were alcohol-related, with alcohol also featuring prominently in offensive conduct, intimidation and other public order offences commonly occurring in parks and public spaces. Police advise they regularly respond to incidents involving street drinking, intoxication, and nuisance behaviour in Ultimo and continue to receive community concerns regarding these issues.

Based on the available evidence and local policing experience, NSW Police consider the establishment of alcohol restrictions at Mary Ann Street Park and McKee Street Reserve to be a reasonable, proportionate, and evidence-based measure to reduce alcohol-related harm and support safer public spaces.

Surry Hills Police Area Command (Feedback on Taylor Square North)

Taylor Square North continues to experience a disproportionate concentration of alcohol-related crime and antisocial behaviour. Analysis of Surry Hills Police Area Command data for the last financial year identified alcohol-related incidents within the immediate area including assaults, affrays, move-on directions, public intoxication and antisocial behaviour. Importantly, incidents were not confined to late-night trading hours or on-premises consumption of alcohol; with alcohol-related crime and antisocial behaviour occurring throughout the afternoon and evening.

Surry Hills Police emphasise alcohol-related incidents occur across all times of day, with offending and antisocial behaviour linked to public space consumption of alcohol regularly occurring during daylight hours.

The submission details three matters in January, May and July 2026 that occurred during the day or earlier evening when current alcohol restrictions in Taylor Square North do not apply. The incidents include homophobic and transphobic crimes where perpetrators are intoxicated, and their consumption of alcohol did not take place within licensed premises.

Surry Hills Police Command recommend the 24-hour alcohol prohibited area is implemented to provide police with a 'consistent preventative enforcement mechanism, reduce opportunities for public alcohol consumption throughout the day and thereby contribute to improved public safety within the Taylor Square North precinct.'

Note

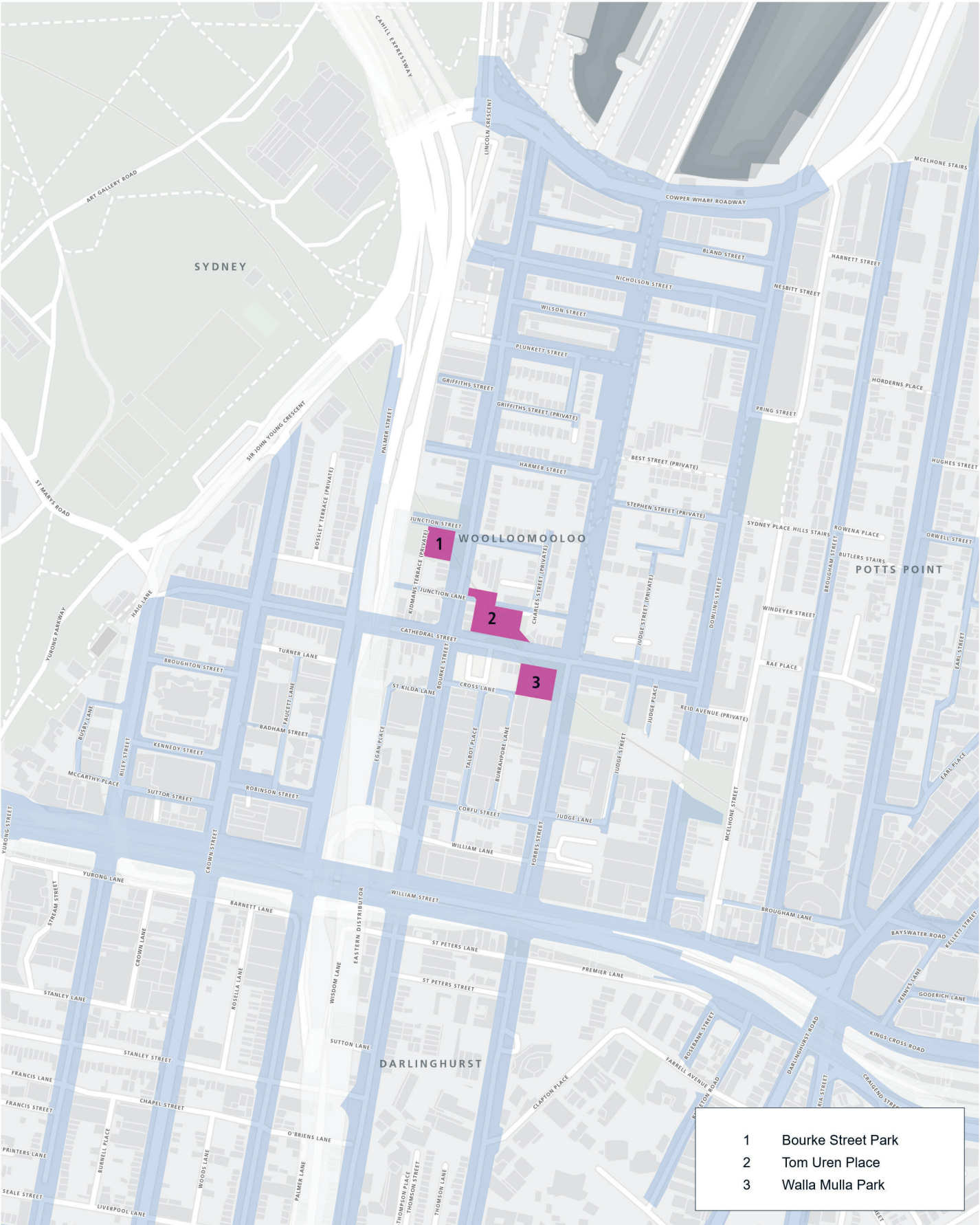
Anti-Discrimination New South Wales (ADNSW)

ADNSW advised that, in August 2025, the Office of Local Government amended the Ministerial Guidelines for Alcohol Free Zones (the Guidelines). The updated Guidelines no longer identify any councils that are required to consult ADNSW in relation to Alcohol Free Zone (AFZ) or Alcohol Prohibited Area (APA) proposals under sections 644A(3) and 646(3) of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW). It also noted that it does not have the resources or operational capacity to undertake such reviews.

Attachment E

**Maps – Post exhibition – Outdoor alcohol
restrictions**

Outdoor Alcohol Restrictions – Post Exhibition Woolloomooloo 2026



The City of Sydney acknowledges the Gaijal of the Eora Nation as the Traditional Custodians of our local area.

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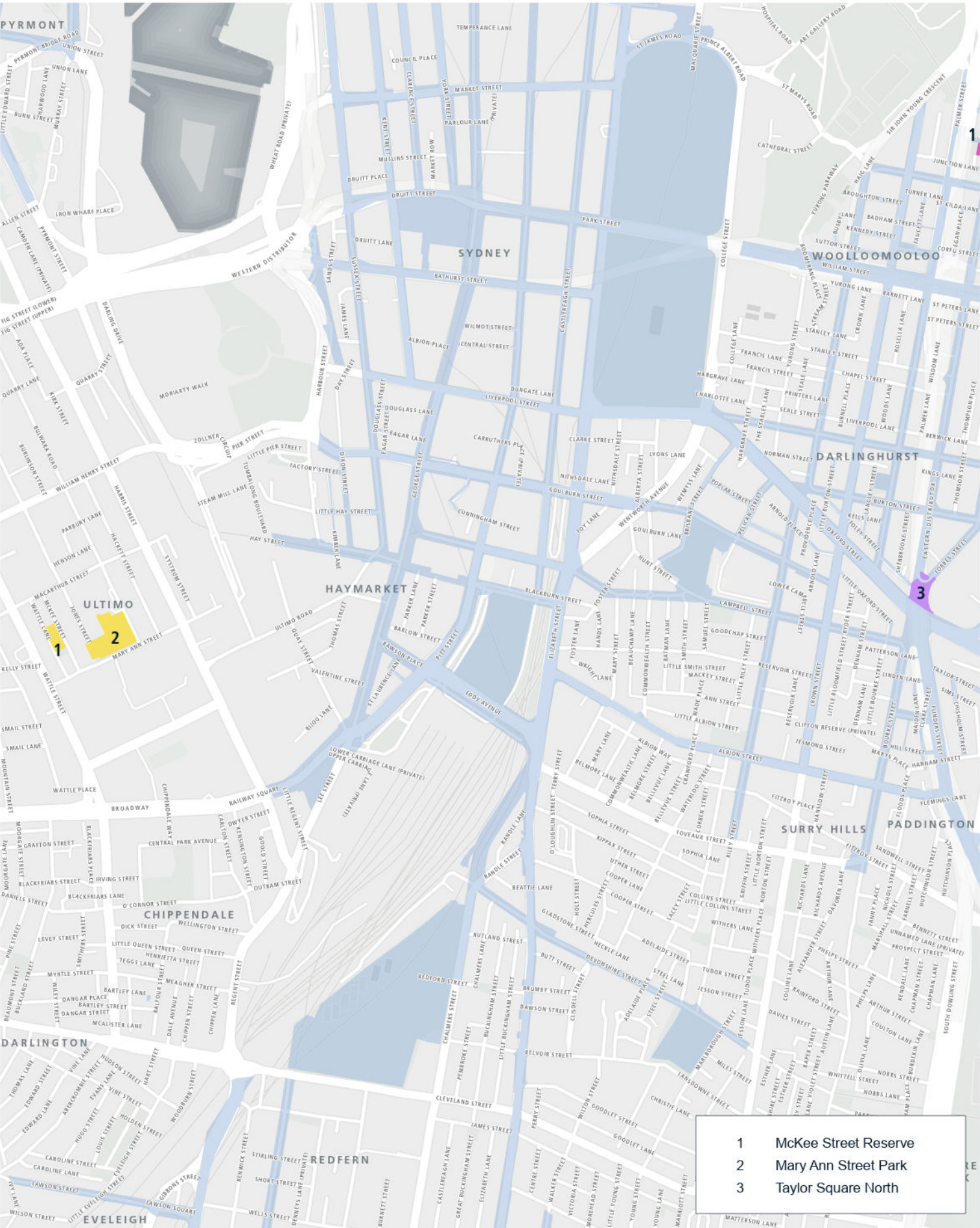
Recommended Alcohol Prohibited Area (24 hours / 7 days) 32

Existing restrictions



Contact: council@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au
File: 20260113_AlcoholFreeZonesReview_SafeCity.aprx
Date: 28/08/2026

Outdoor Alcohol Restrictions – Post Exhibition Darlinghurst and Ultimo 2026



The City of Sydney acknowledges the Gadigal of the Eora Nation as the Traditional Custodians of our local area.

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No change to existing Alcohol Prohibited Area

Not recommended Alcohol Prohibited Area

Existing restrictions

0 246 m

Contact: council@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au
File: 21080113_AlcoholProhibitedArea_SaleCity.pdf
Date: 10/02/2026