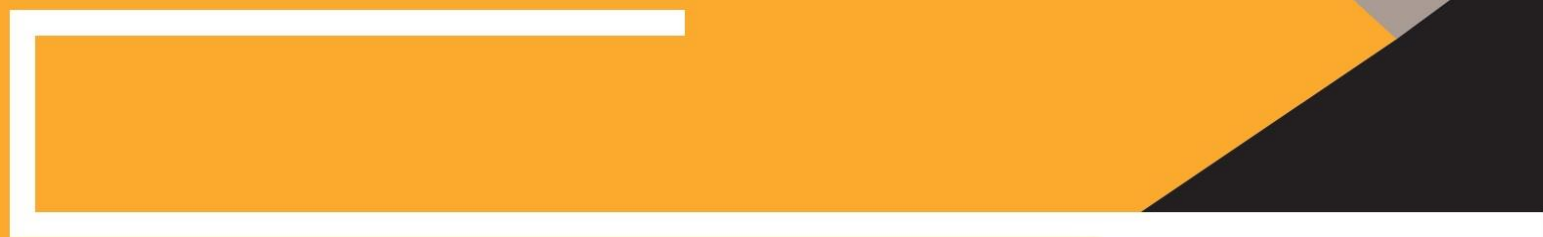


# Minimising the Harm of Alcohol Policy Statement 2016



This policy statement was compiled by the Hobsons Bay Strategy and Advocacy Department. For further information contact Hobsons Bay City Council on 9932 1000 [www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au](http://www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au)

Council acknowledges all language groups of the Kulin Nation as the traditional owners of these municipal lands. We recognise the first people's relationship to this land and offer our respect to their elders past and present.

Council acknowledges the legal responsibility to comply with the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* and the *Equal Opportunity Act 2010*. The *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* is designed to protect the fundamental rights and freedoms of citizens. The Charter gives legal protection to 20 fundamental human rights under four key values that include freedom, respect, equality and dignity

**December 2016**

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## Glossary of terms

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Alco-pop	A flavoured alcoholic beverage (either malt, distilled or wine based) that has been flavoured (e.g. with fruit juice)
Late night venue	The VCGLR defines late night venues as those licensed venues that are permitted to trade and serve alcohol beyond 1am
Multi-buys	Purchase of liquor in large volumes to provide cost savings (e.g. purchase of a case of beer at a lower cost, per unit, than purchasing bottles individually)
Post-loading	Consumption of alcohol bought from a packaged liquor outlet after visiting a licensed, on-premise venue (e.g. night club or pub)
Pre-loading	Consumption of alcohol bought from a packaged liquor outlet prior to visiting a licensed, on-premise venue (e.g. night club or pub)
Price floor	The imposition of a minimum price for alcoholic beverages (e.g. a minimum of \$5 per standard drink) through law or regulation
Red-line area	A designated area within a licensed venue where alcohol is permitted to be consumed
Side-loading	Consumption of alcohol bought from a packaged liquor outlet between visiting licensed, on-premise venues (e.g. as moving between a pub to a night club)
VCGLR	Victorian Commission for Gaming and Liquor Regulation
Vertical drinking	Drinking while standing up in a nightclub, pub or bar. The opposite is seated drinking

## Introduction

Alcohol is a part of the Australian culture for many people, with drinking often associated with socialising and relaxation. However, despite a decrease in per-capita alcohol consumption nationally, some groups are consuming alcohol in a risky manner.

In Hobsons Bay, the data indicates that the risk and harms associated with excess alcohol consumption are moderate, relative to other metropolitan municipalities. That said, Hobsons Bay is changing therefore Council requires a strategic policy to manage the potential negative impacts on our current and future residents, particularly in relation to packaged liquor outlets and late night venues, while also balancing the positives that alcohol can bring.

This policy statement aims to mitigate the negative impacts of alcohol by adopting a harm minimisation approach, focusing on demand, supply and harm reduction.

To do this, the policy statement has been informed by the development of a background paper which reviewed federal and state legislation, research on the supply and consumption patterns of alcohol in Australia and within Hobsons Bay, and the role of local government.

The policy statement has also been informed by consultation with Council staff who have roles and responsibilities that are related to alcohol demand, supply and harm reduction in the municipality and was placed on public exhibition for community and stakeholder feedback.

## Purpose of this policy statement

The intention of this policy statement is to provide Council with direction for the minimisation of harm and, where possible, the prevention of the risks associated with excessive consumption of alcohol, especially those in relation to packaged and late night venues.

In addition, the commitments and actions that will direct Council's response have been identified, recognising that alcohol can contribute to the vibrancy of the social life and local economy of Hobsons Bay.

## Legislation and policy

All three levels of government have some influence and responsibility for managing the supply and minimising the harms associated with alcohol. Broadly, they are:

*Federal government:* primarily influences the price of alcohol through the taxation system, and the availability of alcohol through product control. The federal government also has some influence over alcohol related harm particularly through the funding of preventative health programs.

*State government:* regulates the location of liquor sales (through both the *Liquor Control Reform Act 1998* and the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*). Through the Victorian

Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation (VCGLR) and liquor licensing inspectors, it is responsible for administering this regulation and for setting and enforcing responsible service standards.

The Victorian Government is also responsible for the marketing laws which apply to alcohol promotion, funding preventative health programs, research and data collection.

*Local government:* can influence the location of liquor licenses through both the *Liquor Control Reform Act 1998* and the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. Local government may also administer local laws that relate to liquor consumption (for example, street drinking).

Under the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*, the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, and the *Local Government Act 1989* local government has a legislative responsibility to protect and promote the health and wellbeing of the local community.

Council's Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013-17 provides further support with the vision of:

*Valuing the wellbeing of our people and our place, now and into the future: A safe, clean, accessible and connected municipality, which values diversity, protects its heritage and environment, fosters a strong sense of community and provides opportunities to achieve the best possible health and wellbeing. A place that people are proud to call home.*

While the structure of state liquor legislation constrains local government's influence, councils can have a direct or indirect influence in minimising the harms associated with alcohol through their broader roles as - a planner, resource provider, service provider, partner and broker, advocate and supporter, and community capacity builder.

## Council's approach

Through direct involvement or through advocacy, Council will aim to use a harm minimisation approach in relation to alcohol. This includes addressing:

1. **the supply of alcohol** – the availability and accessibility of alcohol through location of outlets/venues, venue opening hours and management
2. **the demand for alcohol** – consumption patterns through community education, social norms, drinking environments, availability of alternate activities, and pricing
3. **the harms associated with alcohol** – mitigating negative impacts of alcohol consumption through services, treatment, programs, and built environment interventions such as transport, lighting, and security

## Types of licences

The following is a list of the various types of licences and permits relating to the service and consumption of alcohol in Victoria.

Table 1: Liquor licences in Victoria

Type of Licence	Description
General licence	Permits the sale of alcohol for consumption on-premises, and for take away. Usually a pub, hotel or tavern
On-premises licence	Permits the sale of alcohol for consumption within the venue e.g. bar or nightclub
Packaged liquor licence	Permits the sale of alcohol for consumption off the premises only
Late night licence	Trading past 1am (can have a late night general licence, late night on-premises licence, or late night packaged licence)
Restaurant and cafe licence	Permits sale of alcohol if venue generally services meals and more than 75 per cent of patrons are seated
Club licence	Allows sale of alcohol to club (e.g. sports club/RSL) members and guests for on premise consumption. Full club licence allows visitors to enter club and members to by takeaway liquor
Temporary limited licence	Permits the supply of alcohol at one off event or one off extends hours of existing licence at one off event
Major event licence	Permits the temporary supply of alcohol at large-scale events that are likely to have a significant impact on public safety and the amenity of area
BYO permit	Allows customers to bring their own alcohol onto the premises and consume it
Pre-retail licence	Wholesale sales
Vignerons licence	Winemaker

## The impacts of alcohol consumption

The consumption of alcohol is widespread within the community and, if well managed, it can contribute to the vibrancy of community life. However, if not managed appropriately, alcohol consumption can cause negative impacts for individuals, businesses and the community at large. Below is a summary of some key community impacts.

The positive impacts include:

- the social and recreational benefits such as personal enjoyment, pleasure, socialisation and relaxation<sup>1</sup>
- safe, responsible consumption and supply can be associated with higher levels of liveability and amenity in a local area, contributing to the local nighttime economy, lifestyle and social opportunities for residents

<sup>1</sup> Australian National Preventative Health Agency (2013); Australian Government Preventative Health Taskforce (2009)

- well designed and managed venues help to activate public spaces, activity centres and tourism areas

The negative impacts include

- health issues from alcohol consumption, with around 40 per cent of Australian drinkers consuming alcohol in a manner that puts them at risk of short-term harm<sup>2</sup> including alcohol poisoning, violence/assault, motor vehicle accidents and falls. Death rates and hospitalisations from the short-term impacts of alcohol are higher than the long-term health impacts,<sup>3</sup> with a much higher burden of disease among males.<sup>4</sup> Death from short-term causes is also highest amongst 15-29 year olds. Around 20 per cent of drinkers are at risk of long-term harm including depression and anxiety, cognitive impairment, cancer, cardio-vascular disease, and liver disease. These health impacts can result in large financial costs for individuals, families and the health system
- local amenity can be affected by alcohol consumption through issues such as noise, antisocial behaviour, rubbish, and property damage; all of which can contribute to a decrease in perception of safety.<sup>5</sup> This can occur around late night venues and as a result of 'pre, side and post-loading' of alcohol purchased at packaged liquor outlets
- crime and violence due to excess alcohol consumption is linked to a large proportion of assaults in Australia.<sup>6</sup> Hotels (particularly in the inner city) with late night licences have higher rates of assault than other licensed venues.<sup>7</sup> There is also increasing concern about the connection between alcohol consumption, particularly related to packaged liquor, and domestic and family violence cases
- alcohol was involved in 40 per cent of domestic violence cases responded to by police<sup>8</sup> and one third of child abuse cases<sup>9</sup>

Consumption of alcohol in venues such as restaurants and cafes provides a social setting which is less likely to be associated with alcohol harm when compared to packaged outlets and late night venues. In the case of packaged outlets and late night venues, if well managed and appropriately located these harms can be reduced.

(Further information regarding impacts can be found in the Hobsons Bay Liquor Policy Statement – Background Paper)

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<sup>2</sup> Australian National Preventative Health Agency (2013) Exploring the public interest case for a minimum floor price for alcohol

<sup>3</sup> Australian Government Preventative Health Taskforce (2009) Technical Paper 3: Preventing Alcohol-related harm in Australia: A window of opportunity

<sup>4</sup> The burden of disease is a quantifiable measure of the financial, morbidity or mortality costs associated with a disease or health issue. In Australia, the burden of disease is generally measured using Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALYs).

<sup>5</sup> Laslett et al. (2010) The Range and Magnitude of Alcohol's Harm to Others

<sup>6</sup> Australian National Preventative Health Agency (2013)

<sup>7</sup> Doherty & Roche (2003)

<sup>8</sup> Doherty & Roche (2003)

<sup>9</sup> Australian National Preventative Health Agency (2013)



## Factors which influence alcohol risks

There are many underlying factors that can influence the way, how much and how often someone consumes alcohol. This can vary between community groups and licence types. Factors include:

### Socio-economic disadvantage

There is a complex evidence base about the relationship between socio-economic disadvantage and alcohol related harm. Within the literature, there are differing positions on whether alcohol consumption is lower or higher or lower among low socio economic groups.<sup>10,11</sup> Nevertheless, there is a correlation between the high levels of disadvantage and a higher incidence of alcohol related health issues.<sup>12</sup> Among these are poor cardiovascular health, poor mental health, and also limited access to health and wellbeing services.<sup>13</sup>

### Access to alcohol

The relationship between the density of all types of liquor outlets in an area, levels of alcohol consumption, and negative impacts (both public health and amenity related) has been identified in the literature. A VicHealth study found that if there are eight or more packaged liquor outlets within one kilometre, the probability of drinking at harmful levels doubled.<sup>14</sup>

A study of Melbourne found a relationship between the increasing density of liquor outlets (particularly packaged liquor) and increasing levels of domestic violence.<sup>15</sup> Other studies have established links between outlet density and harm factors including alcohol-related traffic accidents, violence, injury, child abuse and neglect, and crime.<sup>16</sup>

### Outlet size and price

In relation to packaged liquor, larger scale 'liquor barn' or 'warehouse' style liquor outlets deal in greater volumes of liquor which often encourage consumers to purchase in bulk and at cheaper prices.

As the price of packaged liquor decreases, there is a corresponding increase in self-reported levels of consumption (in both frequency and quantity of consumption).<sup>17</sup> Early research has also found a link between the volume of packaged liquor alcohol sales and the level of assaults within a local government area.<sup>18</sup>

In addition, a qualitative study of drinking patterns amongst young Victorians<sup>19</sup> noted that one of the main drivers of alcohol consumption amongst this cohort (both underage and 18+

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<sup>10</sup> WHO (2014) Global Status Report on Alcohol and Health

<sup>11</sup> Intergovernmental committee on drugs National drug strategy 2016-2025 Draft, October 2015

<sup>12</sup> WHO (2014) Global Status Report on Alcohol and Health

<sup>13</sup> M Livingstone (2014); A Laslett, J Ferris, P Dietze & R Room (2012) Social demography of alcohol-related harm to children in Australia

<sup>14</sup> Kavanagh & Krnjacki (2011)

<sup>15</sup> Livingston, M. (2011) A longitudinal analysis of alcohol outlet density and domestic violence

<sup>16</sup> Gruenewald, P. () Regulating Availability: How Access to Alcohol Affects Drinking and Problems in Youth and Adults

<sup>17</sup> TNS Social Research (2011) *Cheap Drinks Report*; Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre (2011) *Preloading booze danger*

<sup>18</sup> Liang, W. & Chikritzhs, T. (2011) Revealing the link between licensed outlets and violence: Counting venues versus measuring alcohol availability

<sup>19</sup> Lindsay et al. (2009) What a great night: The cultural drivers of drinking practices among 14-24 year old Australians.

drinkers) is the availability of low-priced alcohol. This is particularly important to consider in the context of venue specials and promotions (e.g. happy hour or two-for-one discounts).

### Trading hours

Research into the closing times of on-premise venues has found relationships between closing times, violence and disorder. Access to public transport and taxis is particularly important when managing the negative impacts associated with late night venues. There is also general recognition that licenses extending beyond 1am bring higher risk (both on-premise and off-premise liquor sales). Recent research following the NSW government's introduction of lock-out legislation found the level of assaults had declined, however further work is required to establish if this decrease is linked to changes in alcohol consumption or patron management.<sup>20</sup>

### Venue design and operations

The design and operations of on-premise venues, particularly late-night venues, can have a notable influence on alcohol consumption, the interaction between patrons, and surrounding land uses. Designs that promote patron flow, provide distinct activity areas, and discourage overcrowding and high movement can reduce on-premise alcohol related harms. Research suggests that there is a relationship between venue size and intoxication, aggression and violence. In addition venues that include queuing for entry are more likely to promote aggression amongst patrons. Outdoor areas in venues that interface with the street can also influence other activities on the street or surrounding land uses.

Vertical drinking venues (where the vast majority of patrons are standing) are considered higher risk due to faster drinking behaviour, more opportunity for physical altercation, overcrowding, and limited opportunities for food consumption.

## **Groups at most at risk of alcohol-related harm**

Health surveys and clinical studies have demonstrated that some community groups are more at risk of alcohol related harm than others. Table two provides a summary of those at higher risk and why.

Table 2. Community members at risk of alcohol related harm

<b>Group</b>	<b>Description of risks</b>
Young people and young adults (14-29 years)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• lower alcohol tolerance, increased risk-taking, increased risk of cognitive impairment and alcohol dependence in later life<sup>21</sup></li> <li>• increased alcohol related hospitalisation and admission rates at emergency departments over the past decade<sup>22</sup></li> </ul>

<sup>20</sup> NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (2015) Lockouts and last drinks: The impact of the January 2014 liquor licence reforms on assaults in NSW, Australia, Report No 183, April 2015 (revised)

<sup>21</sup> Australian Government Preventative Health Taskforce (2009)

<sup>22</sup> Australian Government Preventative Health Taskforce (2009)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• brain development is not complete until around 25 years of age, and excessive alcohol consumption before this point is a developmental risk<sup>23</sup></li> <li>• higher levels of dangerous binge drinking in domestic settings, due to cheaper alcohol from packaged liquor outlets<sup>24</sup></li> </ul>
Older adults (70+ years)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the group most likely to drink daily, despite having a lower tolerance to alcohol; co-morbidity factors or risky interactions with medicines<sup>25</sup></li> </ul>
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 17 per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders are drinking at long-term risk levels<sup>26</sup></li> </ul>
Gender	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• males are more likely to drink at long and short-term risky levels</li> <li>• alcohol may result in an increase in men's violence against women, including sexual abuse. It should be noted that alcohol consumption is likely to exacerbate, not cause, this violence</li> <li>• women are more likely to experience road related trauma<sup>27</sup></li> </ul>
Pregnant women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• despite wide public knowledge about the harms, around 20 per cent of women continue to drink during pregnancy<sup>28</sup></li> </ul>
Occupational groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• trades people, unskilled workers, and those employed in hospitality, agricultural and mining industries are more likely to consume alcohol at risky levels<sup>29</sup></li> </ul>
Mental health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• there are higher levels of alcohol abuse among those with mental illness<sup>30</sup></li> </ul>
Newly arrived communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities are less likely to consume alcohol at risky levels. However, some newly arrived groups can be at higher risk due to limited experience with alcohol, social and economic inequality, and a desire for social acceptance<sup>31</sup></li> </ul>

<sup>23</sup> Australian Government Preventative Health Taskforce (2009)

<sup>24</sup> VicHealth (2014) Young adults and alcohol: developing local government policy responses in inner and outer urban settings

<sup>25</sup> Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2011) 2010 National Drug Strategy Household Survey report

<sup>26</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics (2010) The Health and Welfare of Australian's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples

<sup>27</sup> National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (1999)

<sup>28</sup> Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education (2012) *Alcohol consumption during pregnancy*

<sup>29</sup> Australian Government Preventative Health Taskforce (2009) *Are Women More Vulnerable to Alcohol's Effects?*

<sup>30</sup> Moura, E and Malta, D (2011) Alcohol beverage consumption among adults: sociodemographic characteristics and trends

<sup>31</sup> Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association (2014- updated Feb 2016) CALD AOD Project: Targeted literature review

## Patterns of supply and consumption in Hobsons Bay

After a significant increase in the number of local on-premise liquor licenses in Hobsons Bay in 2000-09, growth now appears to have stabilised. The municipality has a lower density of liquor licenses (both on-premise, and off-premise) when compared to other municipalities in the north-west metropolitan region.

However within Hobsons Bay, Williamstown and Altona have the highest concentration of packaged liquor outlets in the municipality (above the average level of accessibility in metropolitan Melbourne, even when controlling for the higher population density in the area). This is likely to be related to the role of these suburbs have as tourism and hospitality destinations (Refer to Appendix 1: Density of packaged liquor map; Appendix 2 Density of packaged liquor outlets relative to Greater Melbourne).

There are few clusters of late-night licensed venues in Hobsons Bay. They are generally located independently of each other, and in close proximity to residential areas. The exception is Williamstown, where there are two late night venues within walking distance from each other<sup>32</sup> (Refer to Appendix 3: Table of licenced venues).

According to the Victorian Population Health Survey 2012,<sup>33</sup> the proportion of Hobsons Bay residents engaging in risky short-term drinking behaviour (e.g. binge drinking) is similar to the metropolitan Melbourne average. Data on short-term drinking harms (alcohol related assaults, family incidents, roadside injuries, and hospitalisations) shows residents have lower levels of harm compared to metropolitan Melbourne. The proportion of residents engaging in risky long-term drinking is well below the metropolitan average and the rate of alcohol related treatments is similar to the metropolitan average.

However, customised crime data provided by Victoria Police for the period 2009-14 shows that, relative to the number of licensed premises, Altona had a higher ratio of assaults compared to other areas of the municipality.<sup>34</sup>

Population forecasts highlight the demographic changes that are expected in Hobsons Bay and therefore where alcohol demand is likely to increase. The population of Spotswood-South Kingsville is forecast to grow by three per cent per year over the coming decade. Altona North, Williamstown and Altona-Seaholme are also forecast to grow, albeit at a slower rate. It should be noted however that, numerically, the largest forecast growth is in Altona North.

As a result of these changes, there is likely to be pressure for new retail and hospitality businesses – including licensed venues and packaged liquor outlets. Areas experiencing higher population growth may experience conflicts between residential amenity and licensed premises.

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<sup>32</sup> The Rifle Club and Vic Inn.

<sup>33</sup> Department of Health (Victoria), Victorian population health survey 2012

<sup>34</sup> Custom data request to Crime Statistics Agency sourced from VicPol database

In some areas in Hobsons Bay, such as Altona Meadows and Seabrook, the population is forecast to decline over the coming decades and as a result, the ratio of liquor licenses to residents will increase.

In addition, parts of Hobsons Bay have elevated levels of socio-economic disadvantage. As mentioned previously, health related impacts of alcohol consumption disproportionately affect disadvantaged groups.

Given the forecast population growth and demographic changes, Council is committed to best practice planning for liquor licenses, ensuring it supports and improves the health and wellbeing of our community.

## Council commitments and actions

Below is a list of Council commitments and actions to support the minimisation of alcohol harm among the community.

### 1. Land use planning

Hobsons Bay City Council, as the responsible planning authority, has an important role in ensuring that licensed venues and liquor outlets are appropriately located to protect the amenity and health of local residents.

Council commits to:

- 1.1. mapping all licenced venues within the municipality to assist in the identification of any clustering and the assessment of applications for future licensed venues and liquor outlets
- 1.2. mapping locations within the municipality where licensed venues are prohibited, preferred, and where they will be discouraged
- 1.3. applying Practice Note 61 as the criteria for identifying clusters of venues at risk of cumulative impact for on-premise licenses. Where an application results in a cluster, a social impact assessment (SIA) will be required
- 1.4. adopting a 'risk based' approach to alcohol related planning applications, identifying those that are likely to have greater social impacts (e.g. large format packaged liquor, or late night on-premise licenses). Higher risk venues or outlets will be required to undertake more rigorous social impact assessments and demonstrate responses to mitigate these impacts (Refer to Council's Social Impact Assessment guidelines)
- 1.5. assessing building design and operation of licensed venues and outlets in line with Design Guidelines for Licensed Venues by the Department of Justice. Higher risk licenses (as per 1.4) will be required to demonstrate how the venue design will mitigate negative on-site and off-site alcohol related impacts using a venue design assessment
- 1.6. providing information to assist planning applicants including best-practice design principles (adopted from the Department of Justice's Licensed Venue Design Guide), principles about venue location, and a checklist of required information
- 1.7. advocate for Practice Note 61 Licensed Premises: Assessing Cumulative Impact<sup>35</sup> to be amended to:
  - better cater for packaged liquor outlet assessments
  - consider the vulnerability of residents in a licensed venue's proposed catchment area to alcohol-related harm
  - broaden the scope of identified potential negative cumulative impacts

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<sup>35</sup> Explains cumulative impact in relation to licensed premises in the planning system and provides guidelines that assist a permit applicant when considering and responding to the potential cumulative impact of their proposal, and support a council when assessing the cumulative impact of licensed premises as part of a planning permit application. It also provides guidance on preparing and assessing an application under Clause 52.27 of the planning scheme.

## 2. Council land and resources

Council can influence supply and demand factors through the use of Council land such as recreation reserves, sporting facilities and community facilities. Council also has a role in encouraging a positive drinking culture among those using Council facilities.

Council commits to:

- 2.1. mapping the location of Council facilities with liquor licenses, including the operating hours
- 2.2. encouraging sporting and other recreational groups using Council land or facilities to participate in programs such as Good Sports in order to enhance responsible service training
- 2.3. working with sport and recreation clubs that use Council facilities to meet the criteria of the alcohol management accreditation in the Good Sports Junior Alcohol management toolkit.<sup>36</sup> The criteria require that alcohol: is not available or consumed during junior competition; is not available or consumed at junior events; is never present in the change rooms, brands are not promoted on junior apparel (on and off field) or as prizes. In addition the clubs develop and promote of a Good Sports Junior alcohol management policy
- 2.4. working with sport and recreation clubs to discourage advertising or sponsorship from liquor retailers or brands at Council facilities and sporting grounds

## 3. Regulation and the built environment

Council has a clear regulatory role in managing the consumption of alcohol in public places in order to minimise alcohol related harms.

Council commits to:

- 3.1. aligning the hours of alcohol consumption on footpaths to Council's Footpath Trading Code of Practice; no service after 11pm for hotels and bars, and after 1am for restaurants and cafes – unless over-ridden by a Planning Permit<sup>37</sup>
- 3.2. monitoring and enforcing planning permit conditions, especially for venues considered as higher risk, informed by regular discussions with police, licensees and other relevant stakeholders
- 3.3. working with the police to monitor and review Council's alcohol-free zones in Hobsons Bay
- 3.4. considering the implementation of relevant elements of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) in areas that are likely to attract public drinking (e.g. parks and around late night venues, transport infrastructure and packaged liquor outlets)

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<sup>36</sup> Good Sports Junior Alcohol management toolkit, <http://goodsports.com.au/site/wp-content/uploads/Alcohol-Management-Toolkit-v6.pdf>

<sup>37</sup> [http://www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/Business/Doing\\_business/Footpath\\_Trading\\_Code\\_of\\_Practice](http://www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/Business/Doing_business/Footpath_Trading_Code_of_Practice)

#### **4. Partnerships and networks**

Managing the issues surrounding alcohol sales and consumption requires a holistic approach. Council has a role working with all tiers of government, agencies and community organisations and services to address alcohol demand, supply and harm.

Council commits to:

- 4.1. actively participating in peak body networks such as Municipal Association of Victoria
- 4.2. working with local police to assess sensitive locations and liquor applications to ensure both organisations are aware of potential community impacts
- 4.3. seeking opportunities to work with external health and wellbeing organisations to deliver healthy living and culture change initiatives in Hobsons Bay
- 4.4. working with existing local license venues and outlets, through the local Liquor Accord, to promote responsible service of alcohol, and mitigate any existing negative impacts for the community
- 4.5. investigate the adoption of a regional approach to managing licensing and alcohol issues

#### **5. Community awareness and education**

Hobsons Bay City Council has a key role in minimising the harms associated with excessive alcohol consumption by improving community awareness and understanding of risky drinking and its impacts. This includes delivering frontline services and promoting health and wellbeing through existing channels.

Council commits to:

- 5.1. identifying existing/new programs and activities run by Council where the information on responsible alcohol consumption could be incorporated
- 5.2. providing alternative non-drinking activities for local young people and families by funding alcohol free programs and infrastructure such as skate parks, youth events, music programs, and family events
- 5.3. distributing information to young people through youth services on safe drinking and partying behaviour, and encouraging a more positive drinking culture
- 5.4. promoting responsible service of alcohol at all Council events (including those provided for Council staff) and the delivery of alcohol free events and festivals
- 5.5. encourage older residents to participate in non-drinking activities and understand health sensitivities to alcohol consumption
- 5.6. investigate training to improve staff awareness and understanding of the harms associated with alcohol consumption and the support services that are available

#### **6. Advocacy**

Council has a role in advocating for policy and program changes to other levels of government to help reduce alcohol related demand, supply and harm within the Hobsons Bay community.



Council will advocate on the following issues:

- 6.1. more responsible advertising practices, especially toward young adults, discouraging advertising alcohol
  - 6.1.1. prices or happy hours on external windows/walls
  - 6.1.2. on public spaces e.g. bus shelters
  - 6.1.3. through social media
  - 6.1.4. on television and radio
  - 6.1.5. at sporting events
- 6.2. greater local community and local government control over liquor licensing decisions. This could be achieved through greater consultation around individual decisions, and the Victorian Government placing a greater weight on health and wellbeing concerns
- 6.3. collecting and publishing data on alcohol and violence, the volume of alcohol sales by outlet and alcohol fuelled hotspots
- 6.4. researching the impacts of packaged liquor on sales and consumption, in particular big box outlets, and community harms
- 6.5. an improved integrated transport system including active transport, public transport and taxis, to ensure good access to and from areas with late night venues
- 6.6. federal and state governments to monitor the extent and implications of online liquor deliveries
- 6.7. greater attention on enforcement of licensing conditions from the VCGLR, especially for high risk venues, around issues such as responsible service of alcohol and promotion standards
- 6.8. pricing and competition
  - 6.8.1. the introduction of a minimum 'price floor' for alcohol in packaged liquor outlets
  - 6.8.2. an increase in alcohol tax with the aim of reducing alcohol consumption, as evidenced in tobacco taxation
- 6.9. review and update the planning scheme to ensure the prohibition of residential development above liquor outlets
- 6.10. review and update the Victorian Planning Provisions to ensure extensions of liquor licencing hours do not automatically result in increased hours of access to poker machines in hotels and clubs that also operate a gaming venue

## **7. Research, monitoring and evaluation**

This is Council's first *Minimising the Harm of Alcohol Policy Statement*. It will therefore be important to maintain current and accurate information and data to support understanding of the social and economic impacts related to alcohol and the monitoring and evaluation of this policy statement.

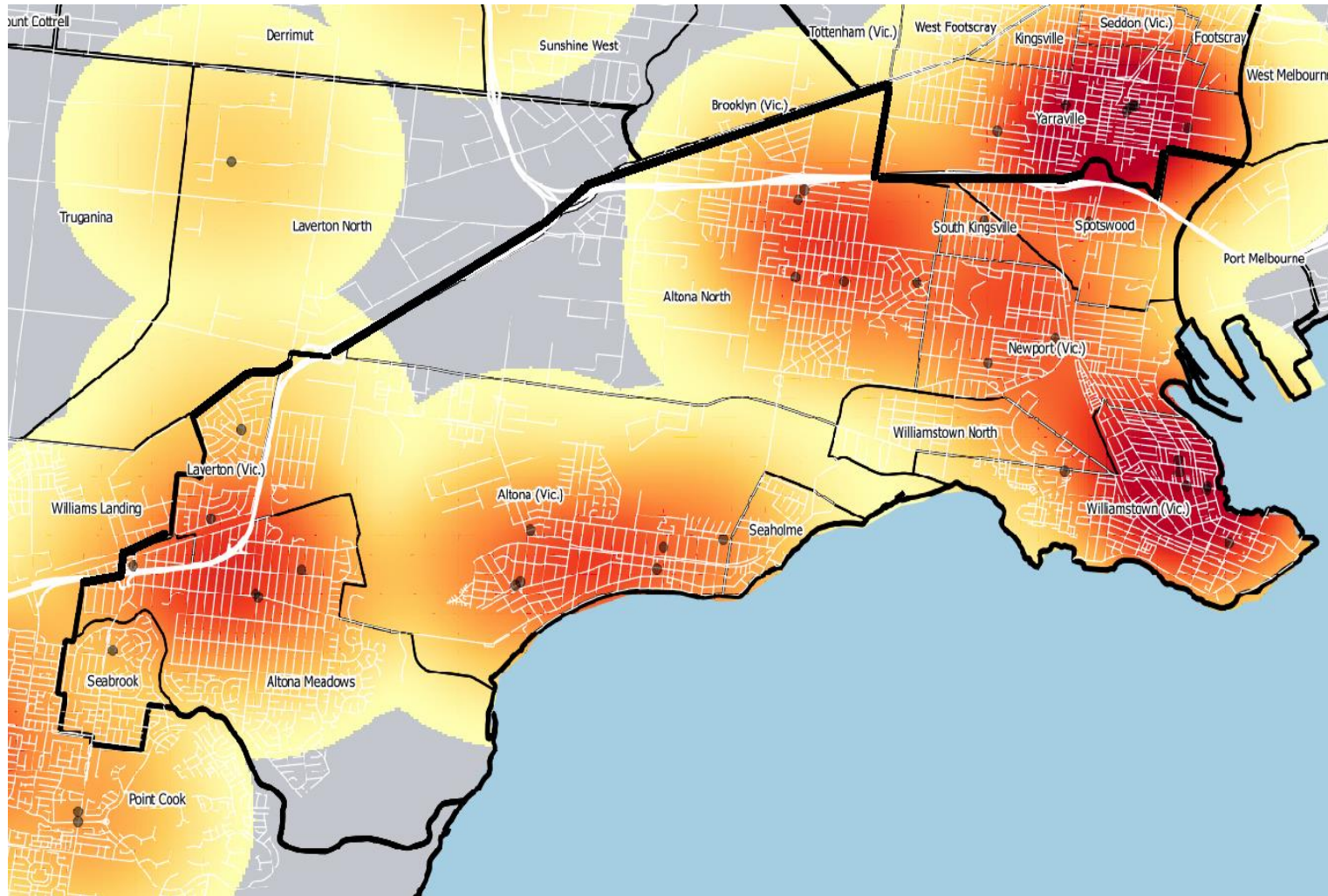
Council commits to:

- 7.1. monitoring the number of liquor licenses, and their location, through data from the VCGLR
- 7.2. monitoring relevant health data on alcohol related behaviour, harms and community attitudes

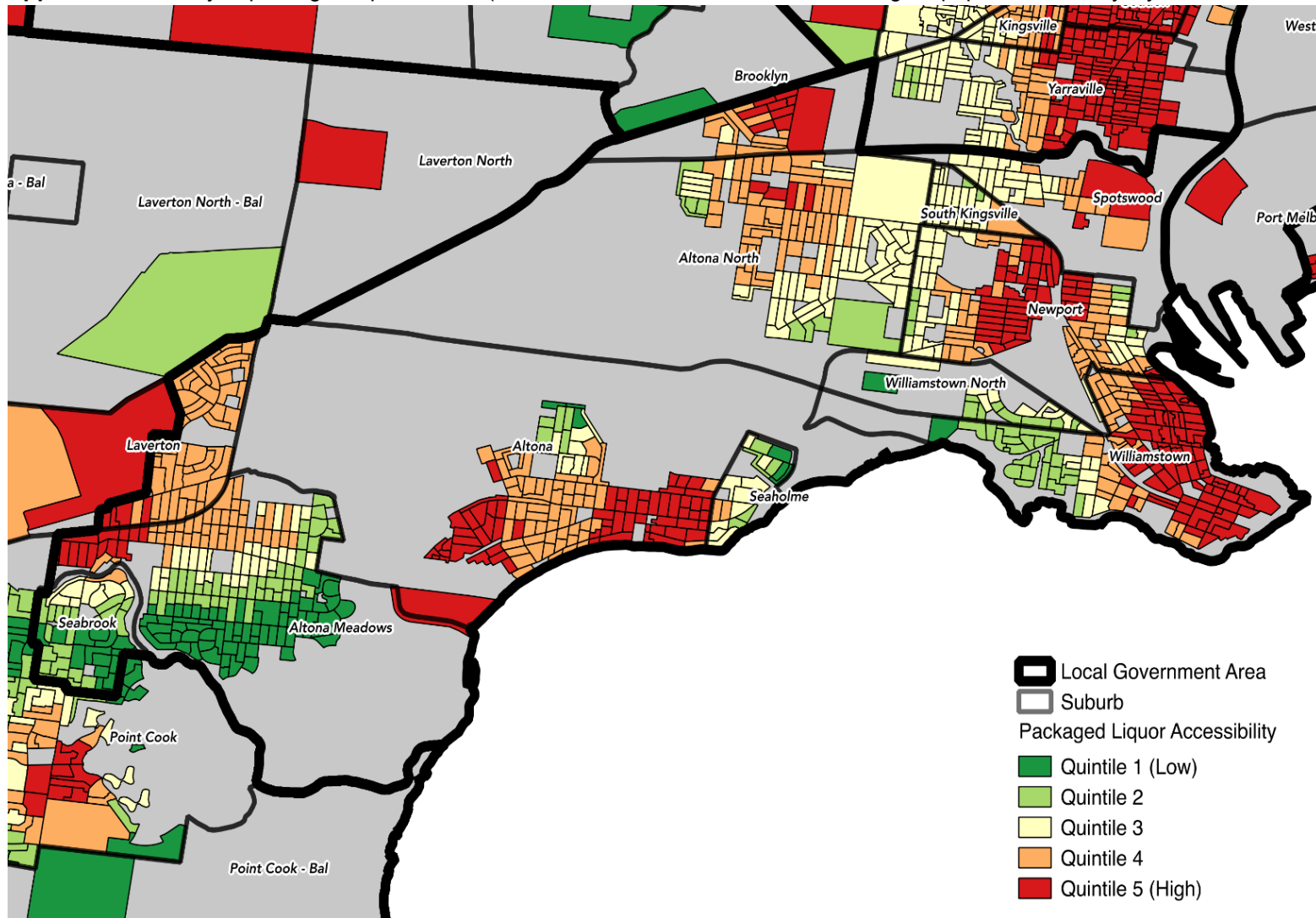
- 7.3. updating Council Social Impact Assessment Guidelines (SIA) to reflect the intent of this *Minimising the Harm of Alcohol Policy Statement*
- 7.4. reviewing the policy statement in December 2018 to reflect the current impacts and legislation and ensure it is addressing community needs and issues

## Appendices

**Appendix 1:** Density of packaged liquor licenses (heat map: kernel density analysis, 2km radius) (Source: VCGLR, 2013. Analysis: Geografia, 2015)



**Appendix 2:** Density of packaged liquor outlets (relative to Greater Melbourne, controlling for population density, by residential mesh-block)



Source: ABS, 2011; VCGLR, 2013. Analysis: Geografia, 2015

**Appendix 3: Late-night licenses in and adjoining Hobsons Bay (source: Hobsons Bay Liquor Licencing Background Paper)**

	License Category	Name	Suburb	Opening Hours	Public
1.	Late night (general)	PRINCE OF WALES HOTEL	Williamstown	9am - 12am	Yes
2.	Late night (general)	RIFLE CLUB HOTEL	Williamstown	9am - 5am	Yes
3.	Late night (general)	MILLERS INN HOTEL	Altona North	8am - 5am (gaming room)	Yes
4.	Late night (general)	GUIDING STAR HOTEL	Brooklyn (Brimbank)	Not available	Yes
5.	Late night (general)	WESTSIDE TAVERNER	Laverton North (Wyndham)	11am-7am	Yes
6.	Late night (general)	THE PHOENIX HOTEL	Point Cook (Wyndham)	7am - 1am	Yes
7.	Late night (on-premises)	SIRENS BY THE BAY	Williamstown	Restaurant closed	No
8.	Full Club	ROYAL MOTOR YACHT CLUB	Williamstown	10 pm closed	No
9.	Full Club	ROYAL YACHT CLUB OF VICTORIA	Williamstown	8am-10:30pm	No
10.	Full Club	WILLIAMSTOWN BOWLING CLUB	Williamstown	4:30pm-7:30pm*	Yes
11.	Full Club	KOORINGAL GOLF CLUB	Altona	9am-2am (Sat)	Yes
12.	Full Club Licence	WILLIAMSTOWN RSL SUB-BRANCH	Williamstown	9.00am-1am (Sat)	Yes
13.	Full Club Licence	NEWPORT BOWLS CLUB	Newport	5.00pm-11pm (Sat)	Yes
14.	Full Club Licence	NEWPORT RSL SUB-BRANCH	Newport	2pm-8:30pm	Yes
15.	Full Club Licence	ALTONA BOWLING CLUB	Altona	5.30pm-8:30pm (Tues-Sat)	Yes
16.	Full Club Licence	ALTONA WORKERS SPORTS CLUB	Seaholme	10am - 1am	Yes
17.	Full Club Licence	HOBSON'S BAY YACHT CLUB	Williamstown	Open during race days	No
18.	Full Club Licence	SPOTSWOOD & KINGSVILLE RSL	Spotswood	Not available	Yes
19.	Full Club Licence	ALTONA RSL SUB BRANCH	Altona	10am- 12:30am	Yes
20.	Full Club Licence	ALTONA NORTH BOWLS CLUB	Altona North	4pm - last patron	Yes
21.	Full Club Licence	LAVERTON BOWLING CLUB	Laverton	Not available	Yes
22.	Full Club Licence	ITALIAN SOCIAL CLUB ALTONA	Altona	11pm	No
23.	Full Club Licence	SEAGULLS NEST	Newport	9am - 5am	Yes
24.	Full Club Licence	WILLIAMSTOWN ITALIAN CLUB	Williamstown	Not available	No
25.	Full Club Licence	THE VIC INN	Williamstown	8am-2am	Yes
26.	Full Club Licence	CLUB LAVERTON	Laverton	3am	Yes
27.	Full Club Licence	YARRAVILLE CLUB	Yarraville (Maribyrnong)	3am Saturdays	Yes
28.	Full Club Licence	YARRAVILLE-FOOTSCRAY BOWLING CLUB	Yarraville (Maribyrnong)	10am - 12am	Yes

**Shaded areas denote venues that trade after 1am (refer to Trading Hours page 6)**