



Inspector Helen CHUGG

Port Phillip Local Area Commander

8<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Port Phillip Council

Dear Mayor,

The current City of Port Phillip Council bylaws pertaining to alcohol bans applicable to the St. Kilda foreshore precinct are inadequate, making it extremely difficult to police, impacting public safety and impeding local business. The St. Kilda foreshore precinct this summer 2020/2021 has been difficult to police due to the sheer volume of people bringing packaged alcohol onto the foreshore and then hiding consumption from police. Police are powerless under the current Council bylaws, to stop packaged alcohol entering the St. Kilda foreshore. This summer police witnessed large amounts of package liquor enter the foreshore, in slabs, Eski's, backpack and picnic baskets. Police only able to administer a warning to beachgoers, not to consume the alcohol found in their possession.

Police then required to monitor these persons to ensure that consumption does not take place to meet the elements of the Council alcohol ban bylaw before enforcement is achievable. The overt action of entering the foreshore carrying large amounts of alcohol is an action in my view sufficient to support intention to consume. It is impossible for police due to the sheer volume of people coming onto the St. Kilda foreshore with packaged liquor to monitor all persons for consumption of alcohol. The members of the public who are obeying the alcohol ban are confused as to why police are not seizing packaged liquor entering the foreshore, reducing community confidence in police. Alcohol was the driver for violent crimes on the foreshore this summer, predominately in November 2020, which included violent affrays, serious assaults, other high harm crimes and high impact public order incidents.

Local traders reported locking their patrons inside their venues due to feeling unsafe. Council clean up patrols also observed large amounts of alcohol containers discarded on the foreshore. In addition, combining alcohol and aquatic activities significantly increases a person's risk of drowning. Local police this year had to increase resourcing commitments from 10 to 15 police members to the St. Kilda foreshore response on days that exceeded 26 degrees. Additional support was requested from the Southern Metro Region, specialist police were also called in to support local resourcing to manage public order.

These increases in resourcing reduces police response capacity to other high priority areas of crime within Port Phillip, Region and State. Police need Council assistance to implement tougher measures

**OFFICIAL: Sensitive**

to improve public safety on the St Kilda foreshore during the Summer season. I request the St. Kilda foreshore precinct be deemed a prohibited area for alcohol during the summer season 1<sup>st</sup> November to 31<sup>st</sup> March. That Police are supported with powers to confiscate and dispose of alcohol in these places and anyone refusing to cooperate, further penalties apply.

Yours sincerely,

Inspector Helen CHUGG

Port Phillip Local Area Commander

Victoria Police.