

Alcohol-Free Zones

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council uses alcohol-free zones in some areas to prevent street drinking and improve public safety. The zones minimise the chances of disorderly behaviour and alcohol-related crime on the streets. These zones are part of a program to discourage irresponsible alcohol consumption that involves PMHC, Port Macquarie Police and the local community.



THE SHEET

What is an alcohol-free zone?

In an Alcohol-Free Zone (AFZ), it is an offence to drink alcohol at any time. Any person seen drinking in an alcohol-free zone may have the alcohol in their possession seized and disposed of by police.

Where are they?

You can see a map of alcohol-free zones in Port Macquarie-Hastings Council's website pmhc.nsw.gov.au/alcoholfreezones

Is there temporary alcohol-free zones?

Yes. Temporary Alcohol-Free Zones may be established for special events

What is the difference between alcohol-free zones and alcohol-prohibited areas?

- > Alcohol-Free Zones cover public roads, footpaths, car parks and laneways.
- > Alcohol-Prohibited Areas cover public parks, beaches and reserves.

The same penalties apply for both alcohol-free zones and alcohol-prohibited areas.

How long does an alcohol-free zone stay in place for?

Each Alcohol-Free Zone is in place for a maximum of four years. After this time, PMHC re-evaluates the zone. The current AFZ is in place until 2018.

FACT



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Alcohol-Free Zones

YOUR BEHAVIOUR IN ALCOHOL-FREE ZONES

Is alcohol prohibited at all times in an alcohol-free zone?

Yes. Unless you are in a licensed café or restaurant, you cannot consume alcohol in an alcohol-free zone at any time.

Can I carry alcohol in an alcohol-free zone?

Yes. You can carry alcohol through a zone if the bottle is unopened, and you are going to a private property. Make sure your liquor is stored in a bag.

Can I drink alcohol on the footpath outside a private property?

No. Footpaths are public places.

Can I consume alcohol at special events within these zones?

Only if the event is licensed. Any event held in a public place must have a liquor license if people want to consume alcohol. If the event is not licensed, the normal rules apply for alcohol-free zones.

Can I consume alcohol in a vehicle in an alcohol-free zone?

No. You cannot consume alcohol in a vehicle parked in an alcohol-free zone.

OTHER PEOPLE'S BEHAVIOUR IN ALCOHOL-FREE ZONES

What should I do if I see people drinking in an alcohol-free zone and I'm concerned about their behaviour?

Call the police on 000 or your local police station if you see people drinking in a public place and they are participating in anti-social behaviour or look like they might do so.

What if I see a sign which has been damaged, stolen or defaced?

Call Council on 6581 8111 and tell the operator where the sign is, or email council@pmhc.nsw.gov.au. We'll fix the sign or install a new one as soon as we can.

What do police have the power to do?

If a police officer reasonably suspects that you are drinking, have been drinking, or are about to drink alcohol, he or she can confiscate it or tip out the alcohol. It cannot be given back to you. If you do not comply with these enforcements, you can be charged with obstruction under section 660 of the Local Government Act. This carries a maximum penalty of \$2,200.

Local Police Stations

Port Macquarie 6583 0199. Wauchope 6585 1404

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