



# Guidelines for Alcohol Free Zone Applications

**Please read these Guidelines carefully before submitting an Application for an Alcohol Free Zone. Incomplete Applications may not be considered. You may also like to confer with the “Ministerial Guidelines on Alcohol Free Zones”, available at:**  
<http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/Community/documents/Safety/AFZMinisterialGuidelines.pdf>

## Overview

### **What is an Alcohol Free Zone?**

An Alcohol Free Zone is a designated area in which the consumption of alcohol is prohibited seven days a week, twenty four hours a day. Alcohol Free Zones promote the use of particular roads, footpaths and car parks in safety and without interference from irresponsible street drinkers. All Alcohol Free Zones have signs indicating the limits of the zone, and the year the zone expires.

The NSW Ministerial Guidelines on Alcohol Free Zones states:

*“An alcohol-free zone is essentially a short-term control measure and in many instances a zone will achieve the desired objective within its operational period.”*

In addition to this, an “Alcohol Free Zone Evaluation and Survey of Councils” was undertaken earlier this year by the Department of Local Government. This report will be released in December 2006, but preliminary findings of this evaluation suggest that on its own, an Alcohol Free Zone does not reduce incidences of inappropriate street drinking. The findings recommend that Alcohol Free Zones should be used in conjunction with other Community Safety strategies, such as Alcohol Education programs. Without these additional strategies, establishing an Alcohol Free Zone may in fact simply displace the problem to another area.

### **Where can an Alcohol Free Zone be located?**

Places that are public roads or carparks (on public or Crown land) may be included in a zone. Private car parks cannot be included. An Alcohol Free Zone should primarily be located adjacent to outlets supplying alcohol where drinkers congregate. In the absence of such an outlet, an application for an Alcohol Free Zone would be considered only in exceptional circumstances. All parks and reserves are already covered by Section 632 of the Local Government Act prohibiting alcohol consumption in these areas.

**Who can apply for the creation of an Alcohol Free Zone?**

Only certain people or groups may make an application. These are: a representative of a local Community Group; a police officer stationed locally; or a person living or working in the area. The Council itself may also make an application.

**Who is responsible for the Alcohol Free Zone once it is established?**

Alcohol Free Zones are enforced by the NSW Police or by Council Officers where the Commissioner of Police gives an authorisation for a special event. The upkeep of the signage is the responsibility of the Council.

**What happens if a person is found drinking within the Zone?**

Any person who is observed to be drinking in an Alcohol Free Zone must be warned that it is prohibited and given an opportunity to stop drinking. A person who fails to stop drinking after a warning may have the alcohol in their possession confiscated and/ or may be fined.

**Where have previous Alcohol Free Zones been located in the Blue Mountains?**

<b>Town/Village</b>	<b>Location</b>
Katoomba	Main St, between Yeaman Bridge and Katoomba St, Gang Gang St between Katoomba St and Lurline St, Lurline St between Gang Gang St and Leichhardt St, Katoomba St from Main St to Pryor Place and Pioneer Place.
Wentworth Falls	Station St, Plantation St, Frost Lane, Blaxland Rd between Station St and railway Parade, includes the SRA bridge, the Railway Parade between Blaxland Rd and Taylor Avenue.
Lawson	Staples St, GWH between Staples St and Honour Ave, between the highway and Bellevue St, Bellevue St, Benang St, Blind St, New St and Adelaide St between Staples St and New St.
Hazelbrook	GWH between Oaklands Rd and Winbourne Rd, Winbourne Rd from the highway to Glandarra St, Glendarrah St, Oaklands Rd, from Glendarrah St to the highway, Short St, Rosedale Ave and the Hazelbrook Shopping Centre carpark.
Springwood CBD	Macquarie Road between Raymond Rd and the Springwood Bowling Club, Greenway Lane from Macquarie Rd to the rear of the Telstra building.
East Blaxland	Shopping center precinct Old Bathurst Rd, Normic Ave, The High Rd, Tallwood Gardens.
Blaxland Mall and Station St	Between the Highway and Hope St.
Blaxland Shopping Centre	View St from the Highway, the full length of Hope St, Station St through to Short St and the intersection of the Highway.
Mount Riverview Shopping Centre	Rusden Rd, between Elizabeth Dve and Dawn Cres.

## *Submitting an Application*

### ***How do I make an application to Council for an Alcohol Free Zone?***

You can apply by downloading and completing an Application Form for an Alcohol Free Zone from the Blue Mountains City Council Website.

### ***What happens to the application once submitted?***

The BMCC will send a notification of receipt to the Applicant within three working days after the Application is received. This letter will also detail the next steps in the process, which are:

- BMCC will place a notification in Public Notices of the Blue Mountains Gazette detailing the proposed Alcohol Free Zone, indicating the location of the Zone and the proposed period within which it will operate. The notification will also list the locations where copies of the proposal can be inspected by the public – usually Council Offices or nearby Libraries. This notification will invite representations and objections from persons and groups within the area, indicating that any submission on the issue must be made within **14 days** after the notification is published.
- The Council must submit a copy of the proposal to the following persons (who have **30 days** after receipt of the letter to respond):
  - Officer in charge of local *Police Station* which is nearest or within the proposed Alcohol Free Zone
  - Each *holder of a license* in force under the Liquor Act 1982 for premises that borders on, or adjoin or are adjacent to, the proposed Alcohol Free Zone
  - Each *secretary of a registered club* under the Registered Clubs Act 1976 that borders on, or adjoin or are adjacent to, the proposed Alcohol Free Zone
  - *Any Aboriginal communities* in that area

### ***How will my application be assessed?***

A Council Officer from the Community Outcomes team will be required to process your Application, including your evidence. Evidence presented as part of your claim is extremely important. The following is crucial to your application:

- Map of the proposed area detailing location of specific incidents and liquor outlets
- Evidence of problems e.g. police reports, letters from residents etc.
- If the area was previously an Alcohol Free Zone, include a report from police/residents/businesses on its effectiveness in dealing with disorderly street drinking.

You must also research other strategies and programs are currently being implemented in your area to reduce levels of inappropriate disorderly street drinking. It is recommended that you show evidence that you are working together with local Community Services to establish or support these programs. If you need more information about initiatives that assist people

who are experiencing issues around alcohol abuse, you may contact your local Community Services or the Council.

Objections or representations from other interested parties will also be processed. These submissions, together with your application, will be submitted to a Council Meeting for a final decision.

***What Will Happen If My Application is Successful?***

Once received, your application will be assessed and placed in a Council Report for approval. If the Council approves your application you will again be notified by mail. As soon as it is practicable Council will place the Alcohol Free Zone signs in appropriate areas, and Police will be notified of their existence. The sign will detail the length of time the sign is valid, for instance 1/7/07 to the 1/7/10.

You will also be responsible for completing an Annual Report on the effectiveness of the Alcohol Free Zone. This report will also detail the other Community Safety strategies in place which assist those who are experiencing issues around alcohol abuse. A template for this report is currently in draft form and will be sent to you upon completion by Council.

***Who can I contact for further information?***

You can contact the Social Planner at Blue Mountains City Council on (02) 4780 5000.