

**Formal Submissions received under section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989 in relation to the Proposed Consumption of Liquor in Public Places Local Law.**

No.	Submission	Officer comment
1	I do not agree with alcohol use in public places unless with explicit permission through licencing for specific events and policing of those events and the public places in general. If there are to be prescribed times then from noon to an hour before sunset is quite adequate for a social BBQ. Still needs to be policed to ensure compliance	Limited comment – personal opinion  Times and ability to prescribe places allows for a fair system
2	Your proposal is unnecessary, unfair and a bit racist. How on Earth can you justify fining people based on a 'suspicion' they have alcohol? Massive over reach and destined to be unworkable...	Limited comment – personal opinion  Amendments were made to the proposed Local Law at the Council meeting on 13 August 2019 prior to the formal consultation process beginning.  The words 'reasonably believes' were changed to 'observes' in section 10, 16 & 22 of the proposed Local Law which is consistent with the previous Local Law.
3	Unfortunately when these types of laws are enacted they often target a 'worst case scenario'. Most people across the City of Yarra are law abiding and responsible when consuming alcohol in public places. I often enjoy going to many of the cafes along some of the streets in Yarra and having a meal with a few drinks. These laws appear to be targeting areas more like parks & gardens, of which there are many Prescribed Areas. This is good as it will allow responsible people to enjoy a few drinks in public places at family picnics/bbqs etc. Is also concerns me regarding the definition of an 'Authorised Officer'. Other than mentioning the police as one type of officer I can't see what qualifies someone to become an Authorised Officer.	No comment – personal opinion  An Officer is appointed by legislation
4	The drinking of alcohol in public spaces, particularly in parks and gardens should be banned. These are places where mothers take their babies and young children as well as the elderly etc. They don't want to be harassed by the alcoholics which tend to spend most of their time in these places.	Local Law allows for the flexibility and to socialise and to drink responsibly.

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5	People drinking alcohol in a public space presents a likely far greater nuisance at 9am, than it does at 9pm! It should be either 11am till 10pm - or noon till 10pm. Particularly in summer. Anti-social behaviour is the risky problem. For some this is directly linked to alcohol, for many, it is not.	Times and ability to prescribe places allows for a fair system
6	Regarding the specifics of the proposal: 1. Prescribed Areas: Picnics on median strips across the Council are a joyful, positive part of living in this area and contribute to the area's great atmosphere and sense of community. In the list of Prescribed Areas only the PIGDON ST MEDIAN STRIP LYGON TO BOWEN is listed. Please make all medians a Prescribed Area so that the tradition of picnics can continue. At the very least, the Canning Street median should be a Prescribed Area. 2. Hours: Please make the hours later. 9pm is too early, particularly after Daylight Savings kicks in and people want to enjoy Melbourne's amazing long summer evenings. Picnics should not be subject to something akin to Sydney's lockout laws. Regarding the need for a law: Will this law actually solve a problem? Please create regulations and policies that address the anti-social behaviour of a small minority (not necessarily alcohol-related) instead of curtailing the freedom of the vast majority of responsible residents.	Times and ability to prescribe places allows for a fair system  Anti-social behaviour issues are handled by the Police.  The prescribed areas can be reviewed and locations added or removed at Council discretion by resolution.
7	The 9pm curfew should be pushed back to 10pm during summer. Lowering the standard of evidence required for police to give out penalties is regressive, and may disproportionately effect minorities. Financial penalties are regressive, effecting those with less financial capital more than wealthier people in our communities. Rather than a penalty system - a health-based approach to public drinking may be more effective at deterring the behaviours these laws are seeking to curb.	Times and ability to prescribe places allows for a fair system.  The standard evidence required by authorities remains the same as in the previous Local Law and a protocol with the Police in relation to enforcement has been developed.
8	the state of Victoria is removing public drunkenness from the laws... <a href="https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/aug/22/victoria-abolishes-public-drunkenness-as-a-ahead-of-death-in-custody-inquest">https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/aug/22/victoria-abolishes-public-drunkenness-as-a-ahead-of-death-in-custody-inquest</a> ...so why is Yarra proceeding with this law that was implemented only to target the Parkies? it's racist.	The proposal to decriminalising public drunkenness is different to the proposed Local law in that public drunkenness is a social health issue. While the proposed Local law is a preventative tool to provide early intervention in relation to anti-social behaviour by restricting the consumption of alcohol in public.

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9	Strongly opposed to this proposal - safety of young people severely compromised should this become local law. We, as a community, have to be better than that. Surely, we are not so reliant upon alcohol in our lives that such a measure needs to be adopted?	No comment – personal opinion Local Law already exists
10	I support limiting permissible areas for alcohol consumption in our community. I would like to add the grass medians down Canning and Drummond Streets as prescribed areas. These strips of grasses open space are regularly used by the local residents to relax and socialise and they should not be set up to fail or prevented from using the limited open space in Carlton North. Other, similar streets in Yarra should be given the same treatment. I also want to make sure that drinking outside at local, licensed businesses is not negatively impacted by changes to this local law. Council must also properly resource itself to monitor and enforce this law through own processes or responding in a timely manner to requests from the public. Nothing worse than having a law that cannot it will not be enforced. Is Yarra up to implementing this law to a standard that meets community expectations?	Times and ability to prescribe places allows for a fair system and prescribed areas can be altered at any time by resolution of Council.  This Local Law has no impact on liquor licences or licensed venues in the consumption under their red line plans approved by VCGLR.
11	Thank you for asking for public opinions on the proposed changes. The city of Yarra is the best area of Melbourne to live in by far. Please do not ruin the area by over-regulating and amending existing public consumption of alcohol laws to make them even stricter. If we wanted to live in a nanny state we could move to Sydney. If laws do change please ensure the changes are properly signed in all public areas affected - often signage to do with public consumption of alcohol is not clear or visible enough. I also agree that in future when asking for feedback on these laws, the council should provide a map so we don't have to Google every single park or street to assess if we'll be affected. If the council would like to address real issues in the city of Yarra, more needs to be done to tackle drug abuse and drug crime in the area in a constructive and efficient way. Please consult with experts and act to address this ongoing health and safety issue. Thank you.	The Consumption of Liquor in a Public Place Local Law has been in place for the last 10 years and no changes in intent are proposed in the new Local Law.
12	People should be able to have a traveller without fear of prosecution	Local Law allows for the flexibility and to socialise

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13	I object to the proposed local law. 1. It's unnecessary and an overreach. 2. It's an infringement on my civil liberties 3. It unfairly targets indigenous, the homeless and the disadvantaged.	The Consumption of Liquor in a Public Places Local Law has been in place for the last 10 years and the new Local Law has no changes in intent.
14	The main objective should be to control anti-social behaviour. Blanket bans on alcohol do not achieve this... I am concerned with wording that no longer requires an officer to actually observe an infringement. These types of public drinking spaces are vital for some people's social engagement. I think 9pm is too early, it should align with 1 hour after the sun sets in summer. We want Melbourne to continue to be a place of community socialising.	No comment - personal opinion  Amendments were made to the proposed Local Law at the Council meeting on 13 August 2019 prior to the formal consultation process beginning.  The words 'reasonably believes' were changed to 'observes' in section 10, 16 & 22 of the proposed Local Law which is consistent with the previous Local Law.
15	There is way too much legalese to read through. It would have been nice if you had bullet points with key changes. If the map and list on the links covers the areas where you are currently allowed to consume alcohol in public spaces, then I think NO changes should be made. It would be a shame to remove alcohol from public spaces such as Yarra Bend Park and other green spaces around the river.	Statement of changes was available.  No major changes proposed
16	I think the focus of these laws should be on disruptive behaviour caused by alcohol - not on drinking in general.	Anti-social behaviour issues are handled by the Police
17	Australians are generally obese and drink at levels far too high. I align the two because they are both concerned with public health. They are both supported by commercial interests that wish to promote more consumption for profit. ( sugary food and alcohol) Restricting and promoting fun activity without alcohol is to be supported. The consumption at sporting fields and venues should not be condoned. As the television community service ads say "our children are watching".	No comment - personal opinion
18	In the interests of keeping our area liveable, I would prefer that drinking is NOT allowed in public places. It leads to visitors behaving in ways that are inappropriate and is detrimental to the amenity of our area for people living here.	No comment - personal opinion  Local Law allows for the flexibility and to socialise
19	Very keen to see people be allowed to enjoy some wine or a couple of beers with a picnic in the park on a sunny afternoon - or at a summer evening park barbie!	Local Law allows for the flexibility and to socialise

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20	Laws exist to prohibit public intoxication, therefore no law preventing drinking alcohol in public places is required.	A proposal for decriminalising Public drunkenness is being considered.
21	We should be able to have a drink as long as we're not disturbing others, anywhere in public as we used to be able to, this law is targeted at and affects predominantly those marginalised in society and the law is providing for further reason for police/council to persecute those seen as undesirable by those wealthy newcomers to the area.	Local Law allows for the flexibility and to socialise.  The current Consumption of Liquor in Public Places Local Law has been in place for the last 10 years and since 2013 no infringements have been issued.
22	I believe these laws are overly complex, harsh and unenforceable. I believe drinking should be legal within the entire City of Yarra between 9am-9pm. It is much simpler, and enshrines in law essentially what is de facto legal anyway.	No comment - personal opinion  Local Law allows for the flexibility
23	Alcohol consumption should not be banned in public parks or places. Casually drinking a beer in the street (while not being intoxicated) should not be an offence.	No comment - personal opinion  Local Law allows for the flexibility
24	All seems reasonable. I support the proposal.	No comment
25	Very supportive of this, however I think restrictions around timing (e.g. Not past 10pm) would be useful. Having lived in London where public park drinking is allowed and a part of the culture there in summer, it was treated with respect and enjoyed by many. I do think there should be some parks (such as dog off leash and kids playgrounds) which have areas with no glass wear rule to protect their safety and ensure there are regular bin cleans	No comment - personal opinion  Local Law allows for the flexibility
26	I think you should be able to drink in a park from 11am until 10 pm. Any park in Yarra.	No comment - personal opinion  Local Law allows for the flexibility

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27	<p>It is not clear what problem Council is actually fix by making changes to the existing local law. In the absence of a clearly defined problem with the existing local law, I am strongly opposed to any 'tinkering' of the existing law. It is noted that the only justification for the proposed changes seems to be "to reduce repetition" and "make it easier to understand" (for who?). It is not clear that there has been any specific issues caused by this purported repetition, or that the current law is actually difficult to understand. It is therefore also unclear how these proposed changes will achieve the stated intent to "make shared spaces safe and welcoming". Council should be spending its efforts focusing on real problems in the local area rather than trying to create problems that are not real.</p>	<p>No changes in the intent of the Local Law is proposed.</p> <p>The current Local Law sunset on 19 October 2019 and therefore Council is required to conduct a review and adopt a new Local Law if they want to continue to have a Local Law that controls public drink of alcohol.</p>
28	<p>I would like the pocket park in the corner of Richmond Terrace and Docker Street be added to the prescribed areas list for the consumption of alcohol please. The park is very popular and it used by many of the residents to enjoy the view, have picnics and catch up with neighbours and friends. Friday night drinks in the warm weather is popular with the neighbours. The park is highly valued and these social occasions are very respectful of the park and nearby residents. I hope you will consider adding our park to the prescribed list please.</p>	<p>Local Law allows for the flexibility of prescribe areas.</p> <p>The prescribed areas can be reviewed and locations added or removed at Council discretion by resolution. Applications for changes by the community can be considered at any time.</p>
29	<p>The median strips in Carlton North (especially Drummond and Canning Streets) should be included as prescribed places. These are popular outdoor spaces, especially for those who live in apartments. In my years living in Carlton North I have never observed any antisocial behaviour from those having what is usually a quiet drink with family and/or friends in those places.</p>	<p>Local Law allows for the flexibility of prescribe areas.</p> <p>The prescribed areas can be reviewed and locations added or removed at Council discretion by resolution. Applications for changes by the community can be considered at any time.</p>
30	<p>This law unequally effects the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander members of our community. In this regard it can be considered racist. In light of the Tania Day inquest and the State government proposal to abolish public drunkenness as a crime, this local law should be abolished.</p>	<p>The Local Law does not control public drunkenness, the intent of the Local Laws is to enable the early intervention and prevent anti- social behaviour.</p>

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31	<p>I am writing concerning the proposed updates to the Consumption of Liquor in Public Places. I live near the park at the top of Richmond Terrace and Docker Street, which I don't believe is on the list of approved prescribed areas. Drinking in this park occurs all the time particularly in the warmer months - either a Friday evening gathering after work, to the occasional private party held in the park, and of course New Year's Eve - this location being is a prime viewing location for the city's fireworks. I'm not aware of any signage confirming that the park is a non-approved prescribed area. When things are more raucous how is this to be managed or enforced - as either the police are too busy, or the revellers have moved on. To those living around the park it can be disruptive for two reasons; 1. the noise that is generated when people are drinking over a long duration, and 2. that it makes it uncomfortable and unwelcoming for other people to use the park.</p>	<p>Local Law allows for the flexibility of prescribe areas.</p> <p>The prescribed areas can be reviewed and locations added or removed at Council discretion by resolution. Applications for changes by the community can be considered at any time.</p>
32	<p>I'm writing to you in regards to recent local law submission on restricting drinking alcohol in public spaces. From what I understand, you are planning on limiting the consumption of alcohol in public places unless the places are specifically designated. I am from European background (Italy and Swiss) and I believe in giving people the freedom to make choices as long as this occurs with respect for their surroundings and for local community. I would rather educate people to be more responsible with drinking rather than enforcing more prohibitive laws. These laws will achieve the desired result but will not achieve any improvement with regards to knowledge &amp; understanding of responsible drinking.</p>	<p>No additional restriction proposed</p> <p>Local Law allows for the flexibility of prescribe areas and the consumption of Liquor in a Public Place Local Law has been in place for the last 10 years.</p>

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