

3. Alcohol consumption prohibition – Bega War Memorial Reserve

This report proposes the prohibition of the consumption of alcohol in the Bega War Memorial Reserve in Carp Street, Bega where anti social behaviour is occurring.

Group Manager, Planning and Environment / Group Manager, Infrastructure Waste & Water

BACKGROUND

Council has powers under the Local Government Act 1993 to prohibit the consumption of alcohol in reserves under its management. Concerns about the consumption of alcohol and anti social behaviour in the Bega War Memorial Reserve in Carp Street have been expressed recently by the RSL Bega Sub Branch.

10

ISSUES

Legal

The Bega RSL Sub Branch has requested that consideration be given to prohibiting the consumption of alcohol in the Bega War Memorial Reserve as depicted in the map below.

20



Council's powers to make such prohibitions are derived in Part 5 of the Local Government Act 1993. The NSW Police Service advise, with appropriate signposting of the areas concerned, these prohibitions are much more effective than alcohol free zones (that may only apply to roadways and carparks) in regulating anti social behaviour.

30

Enforcement of any such prohibitions can be by both Council Rangers and the NSW Police, but the reality is that the function largely falls to the Police Service owing to the times at which the behaviour is occurring.

Asset

Signposting of this reserve will be required.

Social / Cultural

Anti social behaviour has occurred periodically in this reserve and a prohibition of the consumption of alcohol in the reserve is appropriate. It is a memorial reserve.

Consultation

40 Consultation with the Bega Police has occurred regarding this application. The Police advise that they are supportive of the proposal.

Financial

Sign posting costs will be incurred and will be covered from the existing budget for general sign maintenance.

CONCLUSION

The prohibition of the consumption of alcohol in the Bega War Memorial Reserve is appropriate. The area has been subject to some vandalism and anti social behaviour and this prohibition will assist NSW Police in regulating the area.

RECOMMENDATION

- 50
1. That the consumption of alcohol in the Carp Street, Bega Memorial Reserve be prohibited pursuant to Section 632 of the Local Government Act 1993 and that signage be erected to delineate the areas to which the prohibitions apply.
 2. That the Bega RSL Sub Branch be thanked for their application, and that the RSL and Bega Police be advised of Council's decision.