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C60**LICENSED PREMISES POLICY**

This policy applies to all applications for the extension or amendment of an existing liquor licence or the approval of a new liquor licence.

Policy basis

The City of Greater Bendigo has over 550 licensed premises that provide an environment for social interaction with live music, food and entertainment catering for a large segment of the community.

Over recent years there has been an increasing number of applications received from Licensed Premises to extend their Liquor Licences. This has mainly been focused within the Central Business District (CBD) but increasingly a number of applications are coming from outlying areas. The extension of trading hours has created greater demand on police resources, transport and cleaning services. Particular concerns are focused around anti-social behaviour, waste and noise from premises and their patrons.

A number of premises have developed in a cluster within the CBD creating an Entertainment Precinct (refer to attached map). Over recent years the majority of activity has shifted towards one end of the precinct with a number of food outlets and nightclubs operating within close proximity to one another and reducing the buffer between, residential and commercial. The influx of traffic to this area and the close proximity of licensed premises have raised concerns pertaining to the amenity of the area.

This policy has been developed to assist in managing the development and growth of licensed premises so as to minimise adverse community impacts. It will provide guidance to Council in determining future applications. For the purposes of this policy, the area of the Entertainment Precinct in the CBD has been defined. The policy also applies to licensed premises in residential zones where particular care is to be taken with applications for extended trading.

Objectives

To manage the future and existing development of licensed premises within the City of Greater Bendigo.

To define the Entertainment Precinct and manage future and existing development.

To manage the location, patron capacity and hours of operation of licensed premises to protect the amenity of surrounding areas.

To reduce the incidence of anti-social behaviour and the subsequent impact on the amenity of the area.

Policy

It is policy that:

As a minimum requirement all licensed premises within the City of Greater Bendigo will achieve the following:

Bendigo Liquor Accord

- Licensed Premises to be a signatory to the Bendigo Liquor Accord.
- Licensed Premises to adhere to the principles outlined in the Bendigo Liquor Accord.

Amenity

- The operation of the licensed premises will not permit or cause undue detriment to the amenity of the area to occur out of or in connection with the use of the premises.

Noise

- The licensed premises to undertake measures to limit noise emissions from the premises.
- Noise emissions from licensed premises to comply with the standards specified in the State Environmental Protection Policy.
- Noise emitted from the premises will not detrimentally impact on residential properties.

Safety

- The operation of the licensed premises will ensure the safety of patrons.
- The operation of the licensed premises will not impact on the safety of the surrounding area and in particular, the safety of persons residing in, or travelling through that area.

Location

- The location of the licensed premises will not detrimentally impinge on residential properties.
- Cluster development of licensed premises will not be encouraged outside the Entertainment Precinct.
- New licensed premises will be discouraged from locating in a residential zone or within a 100 metre buffer area from a residential zone.
- Extended hours for existing licensed premises in a residential zone or within a 100 metre buffer area from a residential zone will be discouraged.

Patron capacity

- The maximum number of patrons permitted on the licensed premises will be limited to the safe and amenable operating capacity of the premises as set out in the Building Regulations 1994.
- Licensed premises operators are required to ensure that the maximum number of patrons allowed on the premises is not exceeded.

Car parking

- Licensed premises are to provide car parking as required in accordance with the Greater Bendigo Planning Scheme, Clause 52.06.

Traffic

- The operation of licensed premises does not detrimentally impact on car parking availability and the functioning of local traffic networks.

Complaint procedures

- Licensed premises to develop standard procedures to be undertaken by all staff in the event of complaints.

Hours of operation

- Within the Entertainment Precinct, the following hours of operation will be generally supported unless the Greater Bendigo City Council determines otherwise:

Sunday	10am to 1am the following morning
Good Friday	12 noon to 1am the following morning
Anzac Day (not being a Sunday)	12 noon to 1am the following morning
On any other day	10am to 3am the following morning
- In addition, the City of Greater Bendigo supports the staggered closing of licensed premises to ensure there are not large groups of people congregating and unable to find transportation, which can ultimately lead to anti-social behaviour and vandalism.

- Outside the Entertainment Precinct, the following hours of operation will generally be supported:

Sunday	10am to 11pm
Good Friday	12 noon to 11pm
Anzac Day (not being a Sunday)	12 noon to 1am the following morning
On any other day	10am to 1am the following morning

Application requirements

It is policy that for the establishment of new licensed premises or the amendment or extensions of existing licences applicants must provide detailed site plans showing the:

- Location of site in relation to residential properties and other licensed premises;
- Layout of proposed site, and
- Car parking layout (if parking is to be provided).

and a written proposal outlining:

Bendigo Liquor Accord

- Evidence of commitment to the Bendigo Liquor Accord and how goals will be met;

Social Impact Statement

- A brief analysis of the impact the application is likely to have on neighbourhood amenity, alcohol consumption and behaviours of patrons and the likely direct consequences for the broader community;
- Demonstrate that the location of the site will have minimal impact on the amenity of the area;
- Demonstrate that adequate buffering exists between the proposed Licensed Premises and residential properties;

Hours of operation

- Hours of operation for all parts of the premises and justification if proposed hours extend beyond those outlined in this policy;

Car parking

- The number and location of car parks to be provided (if applicable);

Patron capacity

- Maximum patron capacity of the licensed premises;

Responsible service of alcohol

- Details of training to be provided to staff on the responsible serving of alcohol;

Security

- Security measures to be taken including number of security staff, qualifications and hours of operation;

Noise

- Measures proposed to be taken to limit noise emissions;

Complaint procedures

- Standard procedures to be undertaken by staff in dealing with complaints; and

Any other measures

- Any other measures that may impact on the decision of the application.

Decision guidelines

Applications will be assessed on a case-by-case basis on compliance with the policy with emphasis on:

- Zoning of the land;
- Use of surrounding land;
- Proximity to residential development;
- Proximity of other licensed premises;
- Safety and noise measures employed;
- Views of Victoria Police;
- Views of the Bendigo Safe City Forum;
- Impact on the amenity of the area;
- Waste storage and removal arrangements; and
- Any other relevant matter.

Map - Entertainment Precinct

