

**Submission  
No 9**

## **INQUIRY INTO ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION IN PUBLIC PLACES (LIBERALISATION) BILL 2024**

**Name:** Ms Lynda Newnam

**Date Received:** 23 July 2024

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## Submission to Portfolio Committee (Premier and Finance) referral “Alcohol Consumption in Public Places (Liberalisation) Bill 2024”

Lynda Newnam July 2024

My submission concerns the Alcohol ban imposed by the NSW NPWS on residents and visitors to the La Perouse Headland.

**The ban was imposed without any ‘on record’ consultation with residents and visitors and it is not consistent with NPWS policy elsewhere.**

The La Perouse Headland is a visitor destination where groups of visitors can be observed enjoying picnics and toasting beautiful sunsets, family, and being together.

NPWS is the majority public landholder in La Perouse, although Randwick ratepayers pay for the upkeep of assets such as the La Perouse Museum, Macquarie Watchtower and land immediately surrounding the Museum and the Loop Road.

This is the image which shows the extent of the ban. The areas in white are Crown Land with east of Anzac Parade NSW and St. Michaels Golf Courses. The area in green is fenced vegetation on the Frenchman’s Bay Beach foreshore.



In 2020 National Parks erected this sign at their 2 entrances on Anzac Parade (entry immediately south of the Grose-Elaroo intersection and at the Congwong Beach entry at the La Perouse Loop.



Sometime in late April/early May 2024 they replaced these signs with the one pictured below. As you can see, they added the Headland area (Museum, Watchtower, Bare Island and surrounding open space.)



Since 2020 I have written to NPWS and my local member about the ban in the context that NPWS put up signs telling people they can't do a range of things but don't put up signs about biodiversity conservation and don't respond on biodiversity decline. Image below of one of the two Anzac Parade entries: Congwong Beach at the Loop. The 'No Stopping' between 10pm and 3am sign also discriminates against people who might want to enjoy the area for a cool breeze on a hot summer's evening, eg. after an evening of shift work.





On May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024, I wrote to my Randwick Ward Councillors when I saw that the ban had been extended with the Headland area included in the new sign. Randwick ratepayers pay for the upkeep of all of this, aside from Bare Island and more recently are paying for bush regenerators to professionally remove Bitou Bush.

I pointed out that NPWS restrictions across the La Perouse Headland and the main Park area, are not consistent with directions given at another popular area. For example, at The Basin there is a request for 'responsible' consumption of alcohol <https://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/~media/Visitor/Files/PDF/Brochures/the-basin-campground-conditions-of-use-pdf.ashx>

I also asked the Councillors to note the Legislation: [https://classic.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/nsw/consol\\_reg/npawr2019338/s16.html#:~:text=alcohol%20free%20areas-.16%20Consuming%20alcohol%20in%20alcohol%20free%20areas,penalty%2D%2D0.2%20penalty%20units.](https://classic.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/nsw/consol_reg/npawr2019338/s16.html#:~:text=alcohol%20free%20areas-.16%20Consuming%20alcohol%20in%20alcohol%20free%20areas,penalty%2D%2D0.2%20penalty%20units.)

Effectively, it could cost a group of 5, \$110 to drink a toast at a picnic (a 'penalty unit' in NSW is \$110):

and the Parks 'Neighbourhood Relations Policy' <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/parks-reserves-and-protected-areas/park-policies/neighbour-relations#:~:text=We%20recognise%20the%20right%20of,constructive%20relations%20with%20our%20neighbours>

And specifically statements such as:

***We will communicate openly and honestly with neighbours and encourage our neighbours to do the same.***

***We will communicate with neighbours to advise them of proposed management initiatives or activities which may affect them, and we will encourage our neighbours to do the same.***

***We will invite neighbours to participate in decision-making concerning issues that may affect them, facilitating the practical resolution or management of these issues.***

I asked my ward councillors why are locals and visitors subjected to this when such restrictions don't apply across all National Parks. Why La Perouse?

I note the proposed Bill

<https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/bill/files/18608/First%20Print.pdf> and second reading

<https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/Hansard/Pages/HansardResult.aspx#/docid/'HANSARD-1820781676-95777'>

There is a significant difference between drunk and disorderly behaviour that might lead to criminal activity compared to people enjoying a drink at a picnic as they are permitted to do elsewhere. There are other measures for discouraging over-consumption and RBT is regularly observed on the main roads in and out of La Perouse. I accept there may be restrictions applied on nominated large crowd celebration days. But those are exceptions not a reason for a blanket ban for 6 years and possibly more.

It may be that NPWS are applying a ban at La Perouse 'under orders, but if that is the case then who, what evidence and why is there no transparency and accountability. Why are residents, Randwick ratepayers and visitors disenfranchised. Why was it considered OK to drink a toast to Liberty as was done at the La Perouse Museum (covered by NPWS ban) 14<sup>th</sup> July, 2024, yet visitors picnicking on the lawn outside who were doing likewise ran the risk of incurring a fine.

