

CORPORATE & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

August 8, 2025

ITEM 7

BROKEN HILL CITY COUNCIL REPORT NO. 158/25

SUBJECT: PROPOSAL FOR TRIAL PERIOD TO EXCLUDE THE
CHANGEROOM FROM THE NORM FOX ALCOHOL PROHIBITED
AREA D25/36162

Recommendation

1. That Broken Hill City Council Report No. 158/25 dated August 8, 2025, be received.
2. That the Proposal for trial period to exclude the changeroom from the Norm Fox Alcohol Prohibited Area be adopted by Council.
3. That Council endorse the Proposal for trial period to exclude the changeroom from the Norm Fox Alcohol Prohibited Area for the purpose of public exhibition for community comment for a 28-day period.
4. That Council receives a further report at the conclusion of the exhibition period, outlining submissions received and any recommendations arising.

Executive Summary:

In 2008, following community consultation and strong support from the Barrier Local Area Command Police and local management committees, Council declared the Norm Fox Sporting Complex an Alcohol Prohibited Area. Enforcement commenced with the placement of signage and the prohibition has been in place for over 15 years.

In September 2023, Council resolved to explore a potential exemption to the prohibition for the changeroom area at the Norm Fox Sporting Complex. This exemption was proposed to allow the consumption of alcohol during cricket season. Discussions between Council officers and the Barrier Police District Licensing Officer in January 2025 identified both opportunities and concerns regarding the proposal.

Two main change options emerged:

- 1) adjusting the Alcohol Prohibited Area (APA) boundary to exclude the changeroom or
- 2) implementing a time-limited exclusion of the changeroom from the APA during the cricket season.

Following feedback from the Barrier Police District, the second option evolved into a more controlled trial approach with defined boundaries, limited times, clear signage, and the ability to revoke the exemption if issues arose (see Att 1 Proposal).

The next steps involve undertaking 28-day public exhibition of the proposed timed trial period and returning the consultation outcome to Council for determination.

Report:

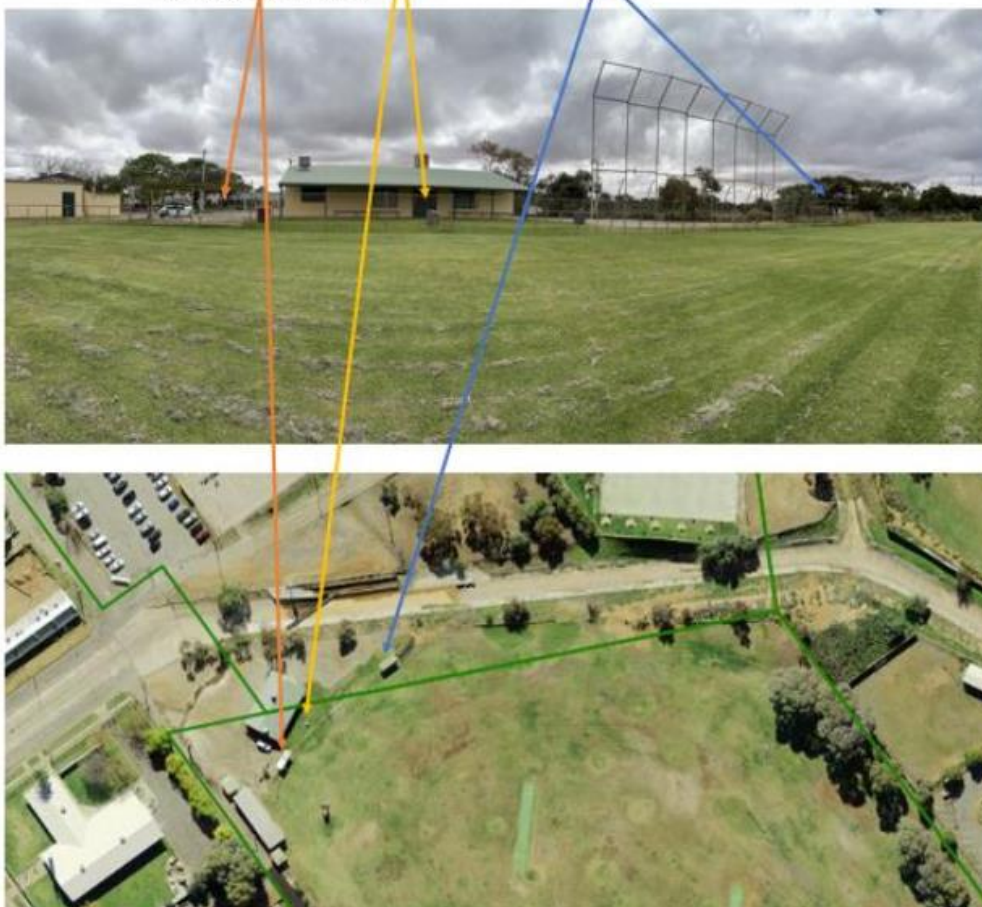
The purpose of this report is to recommend to Council to endorse the Proposal for trial period to exclude the changeroom from the Norm Fox Sporting Complex Alcohol Prohibited Area, for the purpose of public exhibition for a 28-day period for community comment.

A further report, at the completion of the exhibition period, will be presented to Council outlining submissions received and any recommendations arising; to allow Council to consider community feedback prior to a decision being made.

Background

Following Council resolution in September 2023, Council officers met with the Barrier District Cricket Association in October 2023, to define the proposed exemption area - the grassed area in front of the changeroom and the adjacent seating (see image below).

- Area to include: **Grassed area in front of changeroom**,
- **Seating to left of change room and Seating to right of changeroom** inclusive of grassed area
- Refer to below images



The proposed exemption area sought to enable members and spectators to consume alcohol in a controlled, designated space during cricket matches and post-match social activities.

Following this consultation, two options were initially identified by Council for discussion with the Barrier Police District:

1. **Change the perimeter** of the Alcohol Prohibited Area to exclude the changeroom.
2. **Trial a timed suspension** of the Alcohol Prohibited Area during the cricket season (October–March), with hours such as 12pm–11pm on Saturdays.

Police Consultation and Amended Proposal

Council and the Barrier Police District Licensing Officer discussed the proposal, identifying the following **concerns**:

- No Liquor Licence or Responsible Service of Alcohol measures.
- Potential for alcohol consumption to spread beyond the designated area.
- Risks associated with glass containers on the oval.
- Intoxication risks leading to altercations.
- Safety concerns for players, spectators and families.
- Noise impacts on nearby residents.
- Limited police capacity to monitor compliance.

Following discussion, the proposed approach was refined to:

- A **6-month trial** (October–March), Saturdays only, 12pm–8pm.
- The **exemption zone** limited to the grassed area directly in front of the changeroom behind the oval fencing, marked with bunting.
- Installation of clear **signage** stating exemption times and boundaries.
- Council retaining the **right to suspend** the trial immediately in response to incidents or complaints.
- Encouragement for the Cricket Association to seek a **Limited Liquor Licence** for functions outside exemption times.

The above proposed approach was forwarded to the Barrier Police District Commander for feedback (see Att 2). Feedback received July 2025, indicated a concern regarding the inclusion of children playing cricket during the proposed time of 12pm to 8pm (see Att 3).

In response to this concern, the following information was obtained from the Barrier District Cricket Association and forward to the Barrier Police District for feedback:

- Saturday games commence 12:30pm and finish around 5pm.
- Men's B Grade is scheduled during this time.
- B Grade ages range from 15 years through to late forties, with four or five players in this competition under 18 years. Strict supervision of players under 18 years would be in place.

Feedback received August 2025 from Barrier Police District Commander (see Att 4) indicates support for the proposed timed trial of the exemption of the changeroom from the Norm Fox Sporting Complex.

The Proposal and supporting information are attached for Council's consideration to proceed to public exhibition.

Community Engagement:

The trial exclusion of the changeroom from the Norm Fox Alcohol Prohibited Area is the subject of an open report in the August 2025 Council meeting agenda and will also be placed on 28 days public exhibition for public submissions.

Strategic Direction:

Key Direction:	4.	Our Leadership
Objective:	4.1	Openness and transparency in decision making
Strategy:	4.1.4	Support the organisation to operate within its legal framework

Relevant Legislation:

Suspension of Alcohol-Free Zones and Alcohol Prohibited Areas must be in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* and Ministerial Guidelines 2009 on Alcohol-Free Zones.

Financial Implications:

Appropriate signage will need to be implemented and sourced from the Asset Maintenance budget

Attachments

1. ATT 1 Proposal for exemption from Norm Fox Sporting Complex Alcohol Prohibited Area
2. ATT 2 Alcohol Prohibited Area - Norm Fox Sporting Complex - Discussion with Barrier Police District - 08.01.2025
3. ATT 3 Barrier Police District Feedback - Alcohol Prohibited Area - Norm Fox Sporting Complex - Discussion Notes 08.01.2025 - 01.07.2025
4. ATT 4 Barrier Police District - Support for Proposed changeroom Alcohol exemption Area - 06.08.2025 Redacted

RAZIJA NU'MAN
DIRECTOR CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY

JAY NANKIVELL
GENERAL MANAGER