

IMAP Implementation Committee**Briefing Paper****Action 6.3 Managing Conflict in Activity Centres**

Purpose

1. To advise the IMAP Committee of progress to date for existing ICEP recommendations:
 - Recommendation 5 - 'develop planning tools to enable councils to effectively manage cumulative impact'
 - Recommendation 6 – 'review of definitions in planning scheme and liquor licensing regulatory frameworks'

Background

2. Since the IMAP Committee determined to pursue the above recommendations, the Victorian Alcohol Action Plan (VAAP) has been introduced by the State Government. This reaffirms that to ensure the liveability of a diverse and vibrant city, there is a need to develop management strategies to minimise the negative impacts of alcohol-related activities.
3. The State Government, in early 2008 also amended Clause 52.27 of the Victorian Planning Provisions and planning schemes to introduce new amenity-based decision guidelines for assessing planning permit applications to use land for the purpose of selling and consuming liquor. The task of the working group has been to formulate a way forward for a consistent approach to the consideration of new planning applications for liquor premises.

Discussion

4. Given the complex interaction of factors, it is not appropriate to develop a simple mathematical formula to forecast the cumulative impact of licensed premises on public safety and amenity of a given activity centre. The task has therefore required an approach based on alternate means. The working group therefore suggests a precinct plan approach.
5. The current moratorium on new liquor licenses beyond 1am until May 2009 provides an imperative timeline to develop a strategy for management of Activity Centres and corresponding precincts. The attached document is a draft format for consideration by the IMAP Committee as a steering group. This includes a Precinct Profile and Cumulative Impact Assessment as 'conceptual' tools to assist Councils to assess planning applications.
6. In addition to developing 'planning tools', it is considered vital that a 'whole of organisational' approach be undertaken considering key operational areas within council and the mix of residential, commercial and entertainment uses.
7. The IMAP 6.3 working group proposes a 5 part approach, as outlined in the discussion paper (attached.)
 - Map the local alcohol environment through appropriate data sources
 - Creation of a strategic statement for the alcohol precinct
 - Whole of organisation response to managing the impacts
 - Apply Cumulative Impact Assessments for determination of planning applications
 - Strengthen the Model

Conclusion

8. The task of determining a methodology for the assessment of cumulative impact requires an approach that will be useful in decision making, inform the process and pre application

discussions but also have sufficient rigour to withstand challenges (including VCAT). A precinct planning / place management approach is considered necessary – the proposed approach follows this principle:

- A Precinct Profile (including a precinct strategic statement as a driver to underpin decisions). This would also contain relevant data / statistics that provide some evidence based information.
 - An Information Sheet for Applicants outlining material to be provided by applicants, including an outline of how the proposed addresses the 'issues' as stated in the Precinct Profile
 - A Cumulative Impact Assessment (checklist) for staff / decision makers – this would have prompts to 'tease out' the strategic fit of the proposal against the strategic intent expressed in the Precinct Profile.
9. The Working Group seeks the consideration of the IMAP Committee of this suggested approach. The Working Group will then progress the matter and report back to the Committee in February 2009 with final drafts.
10. The matter of definitions requires an advocacy approach with Liquor Licensing Victoria, an opportunity existing in the context of the review pending in 2009.

Recommendation

11. That the IMAP Implementation Committee resolves to:
- a) **Approve** the broad directions outlined in the attachments and **receive** a report in February 2009
 - b) **Advocate** with Liquor Licensing Victoria for definitions that align with the Planning Scheme.