

## Media Release

25 June, 2015

### Colac CBD designated area order extended

An order determining Colac's city centre as a designated area has been extended for another 12 months.

The Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation (VCGLR) made the determination after consulting with Victoria Police about the effect the original order, made in 2012, had on alcohol-related violence for Colac.

VCGLR Acting Chief Executive Officer Catherine Myers said designated area orders were an important tool in supporting police efforts in addressing alcohol-related violence in and around licensed premises. Once a designated area is declared police can ban a person from a designated area for up to 72 hours by issuing a banning notice.

"Colac police have reported to the VCGLR that designated area orders have been instrumental in driving positive behavioural and cultural change." Ms Myers said.

"In their submission to the VCGLR police reported that penalty notices issued for drunk and disorderly conduct had gone down from 94 in 2012 to 42 in 2015 in Colac CBD."

"This reduction in drunk and disorderly conduct means the order has been effective for the Colac CBD and in turn, other patrons and the local community can enjoy an evening out in and around licensed premises in safety."

Ms Myers said the VCGLR had also received positive feedback from community and business groups including the Colac Liquor Accord and Colac City Council. Combined with the council's use of CCTV, the designated area order has seen a marked improvement in safety in Colac CBD.

In addition to banning troublemakers for 72 hours, police also have the power to seek a court order to ban repeat offenders from designated entertainment precincts for up to 12 months.

Police can issue banning notices if they reasonably suspect that a person has committed offences including drunkenness, physical assault, property damage, offensive or obscene behaviour and failure to leave licensed premises.

Rather than wait for something serious to happen, banning notices can be used to defuse situations and remove troublemakers from harmful situations.

The Colac CBD designated area is bordered by Corangamite, Dennis, Queen and Bromfield streets.

For further information on designated areas, including a list of other designated areas in Victoria, visit [vcglr.vic.gov.au](http://vcglr.vic.gov.au).

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