

Dry Area Guidelines

What is a dry area?

A 'dry area' is a declared area where the consumption, and/or possession of alcohol is prohibited.

A person who consumes or has possession of alcohol in a dry area is guilty of an offence, which carries a maximum penalty of \$5,000. Offenders may be issued with an expiation notice of \$315.

The purpose of dry area legislation is to curb alcohol-related problems in public areas such as reserves, main shopping precincts, car parks and foreshores. Reasons for their introduction vary from public nuisance relating to inappropriate use of beaches and other public places, to more complex social issues such as alcohol abuse.

There are three main reasons for establishing dry areas:

- One-off major events which are promoted as alcohol free, for example New Year's Eve celebrations.
- Popular public places where alcohol-related problems negatively affect the amenity of the area, for example, foreshore areas, reserves and car parks.
- Communities where drinking in public places is an indicator of complex social issues.

There are two types of dry areas:

- Short term – declared for no longer than a 48 hour period, generally for one off events which are promoted as alcohol free, for example New Year's Eve celebrations.
- Long Term – is declared for greater than a 48 hour period.

Dry Area legislation

Section 131 of the *Liquor Licensing Act 1997* (the Act) provides for the prohibition, by publication of a notice in the South Australian Government Gazette, of the consumption or possession of liquor in a specified public place. The prohibition may be absolute or conditional and may operate continuously or at specified times.

The Act does allow patrons who purchase bottled wine on a licensed premises to consume with a meal, to remove the unconsumed portion of that wine in its original container when they leave the premises, even if it requires them to pass through a dry area.

In these circumstances, if challenged by an authorised officer, the onus of proving that the possession of the liquor was lawful lies on the person in possession of the liquor. In other words, that person would need to prove that the unsealed container was genuinely being carried through the dry area following a meal at a nearby licensed premises. Evidence of a receipt at a nearby restaurant, for example, would likely satisfy this onus of proof.

Applying for a dry area prohibition

Applications for dry areas depend on the length of time that they are being declared for.

Short Term Declaration (48 hours or less)

Councils have the power to declare short term dry areas – 48 hours or less – by publishing a notice in the Government Gazette without the need to submit these to CBS for approval.

Use the [Dry area template for councils – 2024](#)

Information on publishing notices in the Government Gazette can be found in the below link:

<http://governmentgazette.sa.gov.au/notice-submission>

For Short term dry areas Councils must:

- Publish a notice in the Government Gazette no later than 14 days prior to the event.
- Notify the Commissioner of Police no later than 7 days prior to the event.

Long Term Declaration (over 48 hours)

Applications for dry areas are made by local councils to Consumer and Business Services (CBS) to CBSSRegServices@sa.gov.au four months prior to the dry area taking effect.

Long term dry areas are ongoing for a specified period of time and are designed to work as part of a broader local level strategy to reduce alcohol-related problems in that area.

The application process is free of charge and requires the following information to be provided:

- A written letter outlining why Council is seeking the prohibition (i.e. anti-social behaviour related to alcohol misuse), including evidence of any community consultation.
- The date and time of requested prohibition of a continuous period greater than 48 hours.
- Applications for a dry area must include a detailed and accurate description and plan of the area in the application including GIS data of the boundary. Please note, plans must be produced by Council as there may be copyright issues with using plans provided by external agencies.
 - Descriptions and plans are legal documents and are published in the government gazette.
 - They can be used in court and are required to be clear, exact and unambiguous.

- Dry areas should follow commonly identifiable geographical features. In order of precedence they should follow legal allotments (cadastre) boundaries, road reserves (that adhere to allotments) and topographic features
- Examples of dry area plans and rules to define and produce them are contained in:
 - Appendix 1—Geographically defining dry areas
 - Appendix 2—Map production rules for plans
 - Appendix 3—Example dry area plans
- A letter of support from the Officer in Charge of the local Police station.
- A letter of support from the local Member of Parliament.
- Council must provide details of public consultation which should include consultation with relevant service providers to address displacement issues.

Applications must be made to the Liquor and Gambling Commissioner at least **four months before** the event date.

Long term dry areas are approved by the Minister by notice in the Government Gazette following a recommendation by the Commissioner.

Dry Area Signage

For a dry area to operate effectively, the area must have adequate signage informing the public of the prohibition. Inadequate signage causes confusion for members of the public and poses issues for police in the enforcement of dry areas. It is recommended that Councils follow the Dry Area Signage example provided later in these Guidelines to ensure that the dry areas are properly identified.

Dry Area Signage Requirements

- Signs should be placed at every major vehicle and pedestrian entrance to the dry area.
- Signs should be no smaller than 450mm x 225mm.
- Signs should be clearly visible - placed in prominent places and unobscured by trees, buildings or other signs etc.
- In the case of park lands and large open spaces, signs should be placed around the dry area perimeter at no less than 25m apart.
- Signs should contain the following information:
 - Location of dry area (ie City Square bounded by XX St and YY Ave).
 - Hours of prohibition (ie 24 hours or between 10pm and 6am).
 - Police assistance number - 131 444.

See example sign for further guidance.



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Appendix 1—Geographically defining dry areas

Dry areas are accurately and legally defined by detailed text descriptions. Dry area plans are required to be an exact representation of the text descriptions. To reduce ambiguity dry areas should be defined to accordance with the guidelines below.

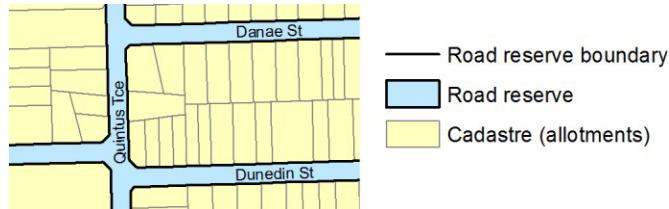
Defining dry area boundaries

Dry areas are defined using cadastral boundaries and topographic features that would be easily identifiable by the public and enforcement officers. Roads (centre-line) should not be used as they are not legal boundaries.

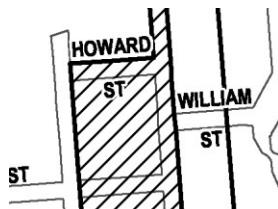
Cadastre

- Primarily boundaries should be defined by cadastral boundaries as these are legal property boundaries.
- Cadastral boundaries are used to define the edges of a road reserve—

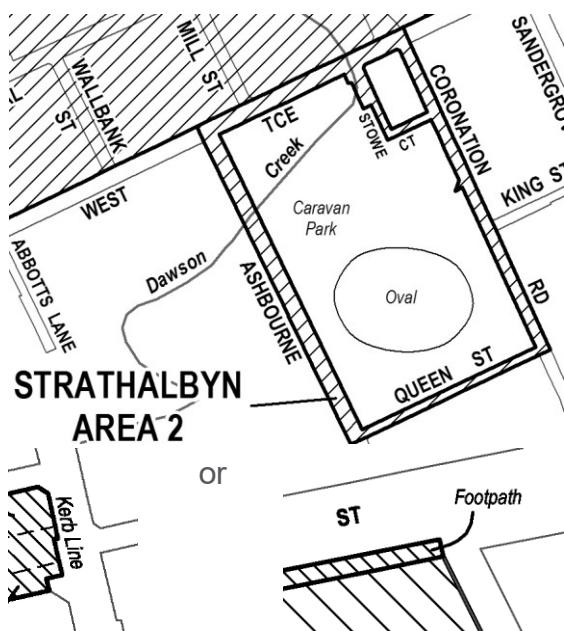
A road reserve is not limited to the kerb or edge of bitumen or footpath but includes everything within the reserve



Road reserves can be fully included or excluded from a dry area

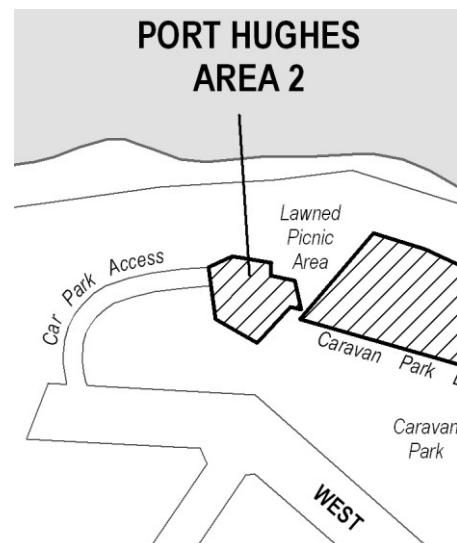
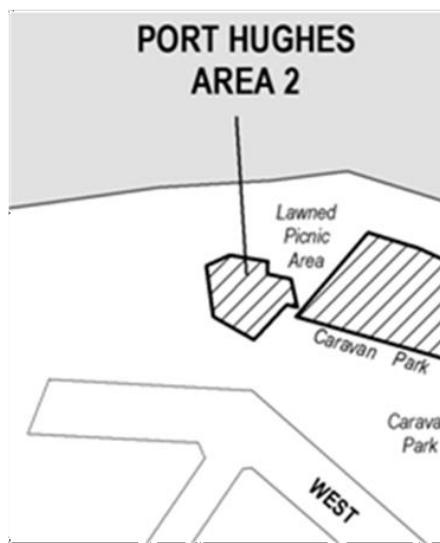


Occasionally only the road reserve is the dry area and excludes all other surrounding land



If a dry area includes only a portion of land within a road reserve this should be explicitly described

- Only in rare occasions should additional road reserve data be created where normal data does not exist to support the text description.
 - E.g. an access road to a car park here, there is no authorised road reserve or allotment boundary.

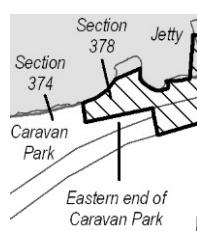
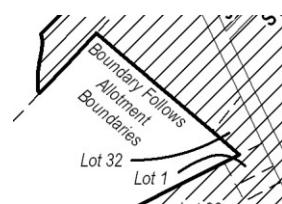
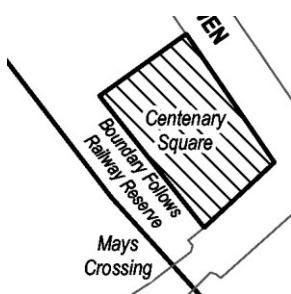


Authorised road reserve data – limited geographic reference to location with no visible access to the dry area *Gazetted plan with car park access added*

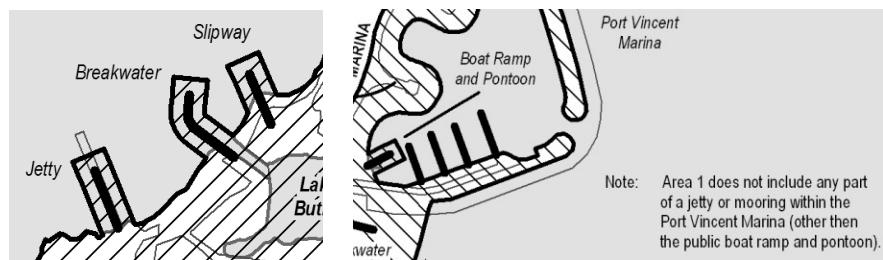
- As cadastre is continuously changing—through subdivisions and boundary realignments—it is important to use the most current information. Text descriptions and maps should reflect current data at the time of capture and reviewed when continuations of existing dry areas are submitted.

Topographic features

- A dry area may use commonly identifiable topographic features to identify a boundary, such as—
 - boat ramps, breakwaters or sea walls, buildings or other built structures, car parks, caravan parks, causeways, the coastline (low and high water mark), fence lines, footpaths, jetties, kerb lines, playgrounds, riverbanks, slipways, walking or cycle paths, water bodies, watercourses or wharfs.



- Topographic features that extend over or into water areas (ocean, lakes and rivers) such as jetties, causeways, wharves, boat ramps, slipways and pontoons need to be clearly identified to whether they are included or excluded from the dry area. Additional descriptive notes on the map may be required.
 - Where these features are included within the dry area, they should be clearly shown on the published gazetted map where space and scale permit otherwise add a note, e.g.



- Only use topographic features relevant in the text description for a dry area.

Roads

- As a dry area will generally be defined by road reserves only use road information for the location and names of roads associated with an area.
- Only use authorised information to define a dry area.
- The sources of authorised road data are—
 - State government for major and arterial roads and roads outside local government areas.
 - Local government for local roads.
- Street directories, Google and tourist maps are not suitable information sources.

Appendix 2—Map production rules for plans

Dry area plans are legal documents and must be clear, exact and unambiguous. Map data should be limited to only the level of detail described in the text descriptions. The only other information on the map, besides what is in the text description, should only be data that helps with geographic referencing e.g. rivers and water bodies, railways, ovals, jetties and prominent buildings.

Map size

Dry area plans produced for the government gazette have fixed dimensions that are suitable to insert directly into the gazette. Plans inserted in the government gazette must be black and white and suitable to use with photocopiers and facsimile machines.

Dimensions of plan—

- Page size:
 - width 15.2 cm
 - height 22.2 cm.
- Map size – offset 1 mm inside the page size:
 - width 15 cm
 - height 22 cm.

File format

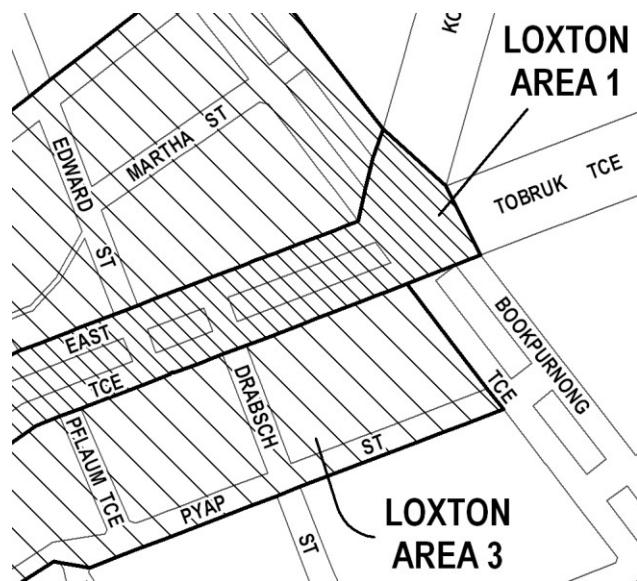
Format of the plan submitted for gazettal is—

- 300 dpi 8-bit greyscale PNG file (portable network graphics)
- Small file size (50-250 KB).

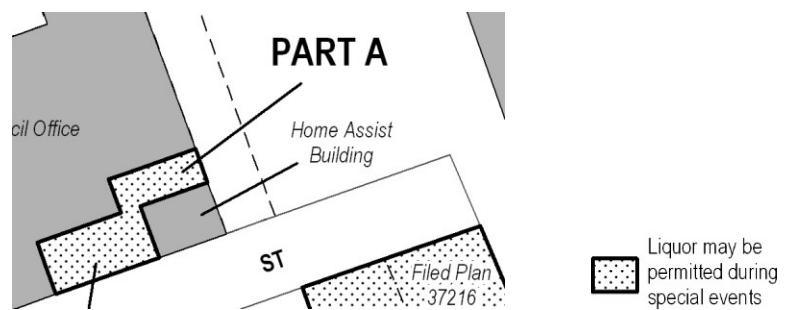
Cartographic specifications

(Symbol and text sizes specified are in points—1pt ≈ .35 mm)

- Background white
- Dry area (long and short term) 
 - Fill: .5pt black line, 45° angle, separation 5pt
 - Outline: 1.5pt black
- Where 2 or more dry areas are shown on the same map the same symbol can be used.
 - If required use a wider separation for an adjacent dry area for clarity (fill: .5pt black line, 45° angle, separation 10pt, offset 2.5pt)
 - Use pointers to identify and label dry areas—1 pt black line



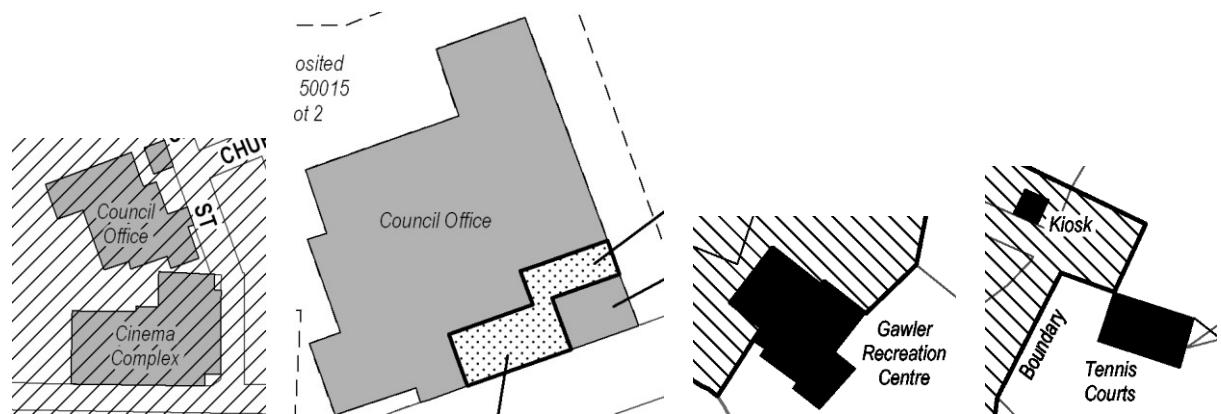
- Special dry areas
 - Fill: 1.5pt black dot with offset
 - Outline: 1.5pt black



- Other map features—

Feature	Symbol	Colour	Notes
Road reserve	.5 pt line	70% black	Drawn over allotments
Allotment	.5 pt dash line over 1 pt solid white line	Black dash	Drawn under road reserve
Water body	Solid fill 1 pt outline	Fill: 10% black Outline: 60% black	Ocean, lakes and large watercourses – drawn below all other detail
Watercourse	1 pt line	60% black	
Railway	1.5 pt	Black	

Feature	Symbol	Colour	Notes
Walking and cycling track / ferry	1 pt dash	Black	Dash double the spacing of allotment symbol
Jetty / boat ramp / bridge / causeway / wharf / breakwater	3 pt line	Black	
Oval and other sports area / fence / car park / caravan park / playground /	.5 pt line	Black	General feature outline where no fill required
Building – small	Solid fill	black	see example below
Building – large	Solid fill .5 pt outline	Fill – 40% black Outline – black	Buildings covering a large area of the map or buildings inside a dry area - see example below
Pointer	1 pt line	Black	To identify a feature



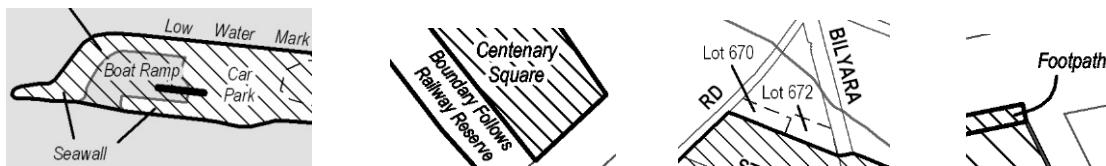
Nomenclature

- Font for all text is Arial Narrow.
- Place labels carefully to ensure map is unambiguous.
- Label **ALL** allotments and topographic features used in the descriptive text for each dry area.
 - Always label allotments with parcel identifier, e.g.—
 - 'Lot 2'
 - 'Section 203'
 - 'Piece 92'

- Parcels identified in gazette notice description should have deposited and file plan reference, e.g. 'Deposited plan 50015, lot 2'.
- Label all roads that form the dry area boundary and where possible label other roads abutting the dry area boundary. It is not necessary to label all roads within the dry area.
- Text size and style guide

Map scale	Road name	Hydrographical name	Descriptive text	Notes
1:5 000 or smaller	9 pt bold UPPERCASE	9 pt bold italic Capitalise Each Word	<i>8 pt italic Capitalise Each Word</i>	<i>8 pt italic Sentence case</i>
Between 1:5 000 and 1:14 000	8 pt bold UPPERCASE	8 pt bold italic Capitalise Each Word	<i>7 pt italic Capitalise Each Word</i>	<i>7 pt italic Sentence case</i>
1:14 000 and larger	6 pt bold UPPERCASE	6 pt bold italic Capitalise Each Word	<i>6 pt italic Capitalise Each Word</i>	<i>6 pt italic Sentence case</i>

- Descriptive notes – labelled topographic features and allotments.



- Notes – instructions regarding any dry area inclusions or exclusion

Note: area includes any wharf, jetty, boat ramp or other structure extending into the river from the area.

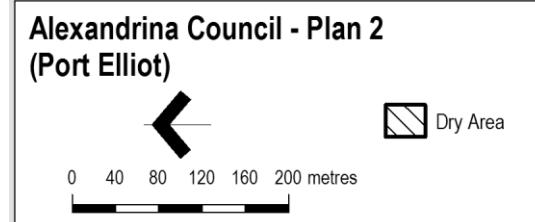
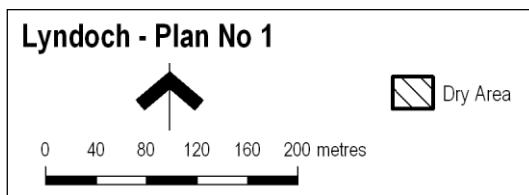
Note: the area does not include -
(a) the grounds of The University of Adelaide, the University of South Australia or the Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science; or
(b) the Adelaide Festival Centre.

Note: the area includes the footpaths immediately abutting the hatched area.

- Dry area name:
 - Only label where there is more than one dry area on the map, use pointer to identify
 - **14 pt Arial narrow bold UPPERCASE** with pointer
- Suburb name:
 - Only label where dry area(s) straddle more than one suburb
 - **11 pt Arial narrow bold UPPERCASE**

Marginalia

- Include plan name, scale bar, north arrow and dry area legend only.
 - There should be no other legend detail required as other features are clearly labelled on the plan.
- Plan name is the name of the plan referenced in the government gazette notice, not the name of the dry area.
- Plan title naming standards—
 - Long term – Plan number reference, e.g. **Glenelg – Plan No 1**
 - Short term – Plan reference, e.g. **Glenelg – Plan 1**
- All marginalia is contained inside a box with dimensions 7 cm width by 2.5 cm height (increase height to 3 cm if plan name is long and goes over 2 lines).
 - Plan Name: **12 pt Arial narrow bold**
 - Legend and scale text: 8 pt Arial narrow
- Place in any corner of the map best suited to dry area position and topographic map detail.
 - Position 3 mm in from map border.
- Layout examples—



Map scale

- A suitable scale should be used to maximise the dry area(s) on the map with consideration giving to position of marginalia and room for necessary nomenclature.

Map orientation

- Default orientation should be north to be at top of the map.
- For irregular shaped dry areas rotate the map either 90° clockwise or anticlockwise to maximise scale.

Continuation of an existing dry area

Text descriptions and plans should reflect current data at the time of capture and reviewed when continuations of existing dry areas are submitted. Continuations of existing dry areas can include a copy of the existing gazette notice containing the description and plan where the—

- Text description has not changed.
- Plan number in the government gazette has not changed.

Spatial data supply of gazetted dry areas

Spatial and topologically correct GIS polygon data of all dry areas to be gazetted must be supplied to Spatial Information Planning Branch in the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure. This data will be used to update and maintain the dry area spatial database managed by DPTI. Forward GIS data to DPTI by email to: dpti.pdplanninginformation@sa.gov.au

GIS data must be attribute coded with the follow detail—

- **Name** locality name only, e.g. Glenelg
- **Term** Long term, short term or special
 - Special – liquor may be permitted during special events, e.g. portions of Salisbury Area 1, Parts A and B
- **Number** e.g. Area 1 or Part A
- **Period** e.g. Continuous until 18 December 2014 (long term example)
 - e.g. 6 pm on 31 December 2014 to 8 am on 1 January 2015 (short term example)

Plan number and dry area number are **NOT** the same. A dry area plan can contain multiple dry areas.

DPTI must be informed on whether the dry area is new, modified or expired (not continued). If a dry area is being replaced by a new dry area or is being expired, DPTI must be informed of the affected dry area. This is to ensure the dry area spatial database properly maintained and aligned to the government gazette.

An Esri ArcGIS (GIS software) style and template layout is available on request.

Sources of spatial data

Cadastre

- Mapland— <https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/science/mapland/spatial-gis-data>

Roads

- Combined state and local government data— www.data.sa.gov.au

Topographic Data

- Mapland— <https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/science/mapland/spatial-gis-data>

Appendix 3—Example dry area plans

