

Three month snapshot: Surfers Paradise Drink Safe Precinct trial

About the Surfers Paradise Drink Safe Precinct

Surfers Paradise is a major tourist destination and attracts large numbers of foreign and domestic tourists. It has the highest concentration of licensed premises in Queensland in the Cavill and Orchid Avenue precinct.

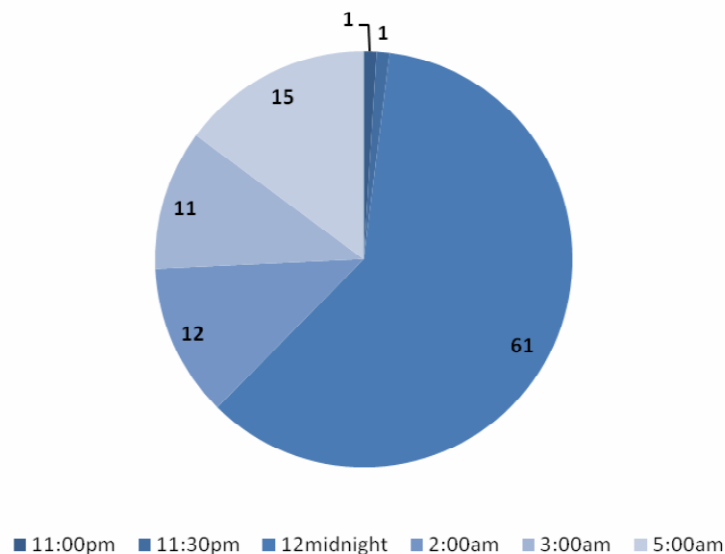
The Surfers Paradise Drink Safe Precinct covers the area between Cypress Avenue and Hamilton Avenue and Ferny Avenue and the Surfers Paradise Esplanade. The area includes many of major licensed venues and popular nightclubs in Surfers Paradise — including Cavill Avenue and Orchid Avenue.

It is estimated that more than 30,000 people visit the Surfers Paradise precinct on an average Friday and Saturday night, with these numbers increasing to at least 50,000 during major events such as Gold Coast 600 (formerly Indy), Schoolies and New Year's Eve. More than 18,000 people live in the Surfers Paradise suburb.

There are 101 licensed venues in the Surfers Paradise Drink Safe Precinct. As shown in Figure 1:

- 63 venues close at or before midnight and 38 venues trade past midnight.
- 12 venues trade until 2am, 11 venues trade until 3am and 15 venues have licenses to trade past lockout.

Figure 1: Trading hours of venues located in the Surfers Paradise Drink Safe Precinct



Source: OLGR 2011.

The Surfers Paradise Drink Safe Precinct has been in operation since December 2010. Some information about what happened during the first three months of the trial is described below.

What strategies are in place in the Surfers Paradise Drink Safe Precinct?

A number of strategies aimed at reducing alcohol-related violence and improving community safety exist in Surfers Paradise, including:

- **Safety Camera Network** — The Gold Coast City Council has more than 50 CCTV cameras to provide information about incidents to QPS and facilitate a fast response to incidents and the apprehension of alleged offenders.
- **Inter-venue Radio Communication Network** — This radio network links the Gold Coast City Council Safety Camera Network, licensed venues, QPS and the Chill Out Zone. The radio network is used to

share information about incidents or persons causing concern, identify potential incidents and facilitate fast responses to incidents.

- **Taxi marshals and security guards at Secure Taxi Ranks** — Taxi marshals and security guards are located at the Secure taxi rank (Cavill and Orchid Avenues) and FlatFare rank (Cavill Ave) on Friday and Saturday nights and on public holidays to ensure that patrons are loaded into taxis in a safe and efficient way.
- **Mobile security patrol on Surfside Buslines** — Mobile security patrols on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights. If an issue on the bus arises the driver can call security and a mobile patrol vehicle is sent to the bus to resolve the issue.
- **Foreshore upgrade** — The redevelopment of the Esplanade foreshore incorporates best practice Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design.
- **Chill Out Zone** — Provides rest and recovery space for intoxicated and vulnerable people. The service also includes a mobile foot patrol which patrols the precinct assisting intoxicated people who are in need.
- **Get Home Safely Campaign** — This local campaign promotes personal safety and provides information about the location of late night transport options to patrons of Surfers Paradise

Figure 2: 'Get Home Safely' Wallet Card

Emergency Numbers
Where to get help

- Police, Ambulance, Fire
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- Gold Coast Hospital
5519 8211
- Alcohol and Drug Information
1800 177 833
- Gold Coast Youth Service
5572 0400
- Lifeline Gold Coast
131 114
- Sexual Assault Help Line
1800 010 120
- Chill Out Zone (Thurs–Sat nights)
0414 235 561

New NightLink Bus Services
Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays. Hourly from 2.30am to 5.30am.

N750 - Surfers Paradise to Mudgeeraba via Broadbeach and Robina
(pick up from Surfers Paradise Boulevard near Cavill Ave)

N21 - Surfers Paradise to Nerang via Chevron Island and Ashmore
(pick up from Appel Park on Ferny Ave)

Standard Translink fares apply
Visit www.translink.com.au or phone 13 12 30.

Funded by Gold Coast City Council and delivered in partnership with Translink and Surfside Buslines.
GCCC6865

Working for our future – today

goldcoastcity.com.au/homesafely

Don't get SMASHED
... get home safely

Gold Coast City Council

What's been happening in the Surfers Paradise Drink Safe Precinct?

Queensland Police Service activity¹

Activity

During the first three months of the trial in Surfers Paradise:

- 503 people were arrested – mainly for good order type offences and public drunkenness
- 25 Notices to Appear were issued
- 990 street checks were conducted
- 414 Random Breath Tests (RBTs) were conducted
- 128 Traffic Infringement Notices (TINs) were issued.

During this period police conducted 544 walkthroughs of licensed premises,² detected 81 breaches against licensed premises³ and exercised tip out powers 425 times.

Diversions activity by QPS

As part of the trial, police in Surfers Paradise have started to record more information about the use of diversionary strategies and policing that resolves incidents informally, without recourse to the criminal justice system.

During the first three months of the trial, police officers patrolling the precinct used diversionary strategies more than 700 times.⁴ This included:

- taking 132 people to a place of safety or rest and recovery area
- using conflict intervention/tactical communication 187 times
- diffusing 136 potential incidents through using de-escalation techniques
- issuing 199 move-on directions.

Assaults

During the first three months of the trial, eight people were arrested for assault-related offences in the Surfers Paradise Drink Safe Precinct and three Notices to Appear were issued.

Seven people were arrested for assaults against police in Surfers Paradise during the first three months of the trial.

Good Order Offences

During the first three months of the trial police arrested 198 people for good order offences. Police issued 100 tickets and three Notices to Appear during this period.

Liquor Offences

During the first three months of the trial police arrested 212 people and issued 301 tickets for liquor offences.

¹ The data presented here has been obtained from QPS nightly Returns Sheets and not from QPRIME which is QPS's principal crime recording database. There may be some discrepancies between Returns Sheet data and data obtained from QPRIME and where this occurs QPRIME is to be regarded as authoritative. It should be noted that the DSP evaluation which is being conducted of the course of the two year DSP trial will principally be based on QPRIME data. The Returns Sheets, however, provide some data that is not otherwise recorded in QPRIME or elsewhere and these data will also be used to inform the evaluation.

² A walkthrough is where police conduct a foot patrol of a licensed premise and includes: maintaining a police presence; rapport building between police and patrons/venue management; and police observation of a venue's operation, for example, patron intoxication levels and behaviour, serving of alcohol to patrons, and compliance with relevant legislation

³ QPS figures for breaches detected against licensed premises do not necessarily mean that enforcement action was taken. Most of these breaches are reported to OLGR to action.

⁴ Some interventions may have involved more than one person. For example, the use of conflict intervention/tactical communication may have been used to deescalate a possible assault occurring between two or more persons.

Drug Offences and Drink/Drug Driving

During the first three months of the trial, police arrested 23 people issued three Notices to Appear and one ticket for drug related offences.

During this period, 17 people were arrested and nine Notices to Appear were issued for drink/drug driving offences.

Banning orders

Since the commencement of the Drink Safe Precinct trial, five people have been banned from entering the Surfers Paradise Drink Safe Precinct for the following offences:

- Disorderly in Premises (x 2)
- Assault Occasioning Bodily Harm
- Obstruct Police
- Public Nuisance – Disorderly.

One person was arrested for breaching a banning order in March and charged with the offence of Contravention of Banning Order under the *Penalties and Sentences Act* (section 42O). This person was convicted and fined \$750 for the breach, but a return-to-prison warrant was issued against him because this offence breached his parole conditions.

A further sixteen applications for banning orders are currently before the courts.

Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation Activity

In addition to the Liquor Infringement Notices issued by Police, OLGR officers issued one infringement notice during the first three months of the trial. This notice was issued for:

- 'Failing to provide a name age and address when requested'.

As well as being able to issue Infringement Notices, OLGR inspectors also monitor the compliance of licensed premises and routinely conduct compliance audits and investigations. During the first three months of the trial, 41 compliance operations were conducted on 23 licensed venues in the Surfers Paradise Drink Safe Precinct.⁵ A total of 13 breaches against licensed premises were detected during this period.

Support services⁶

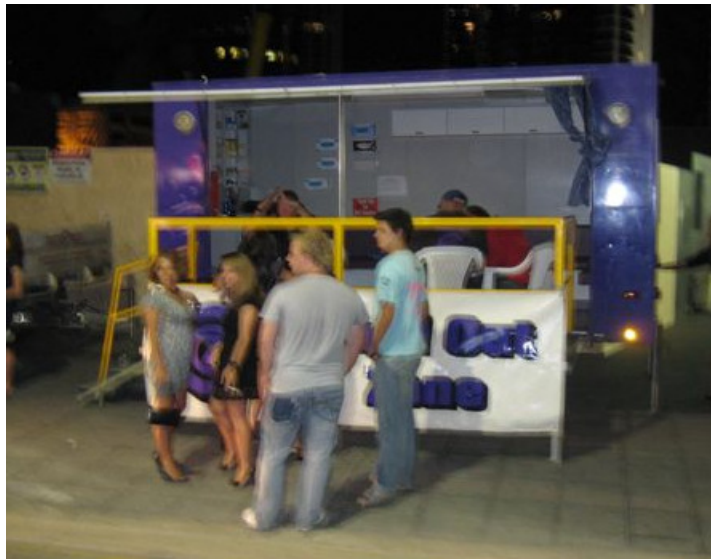
The Chill Out Zone has been established in Surfers Paradise for more than 10 years. The Chill Out Zone continues to operate as the main mechanism of support for patrons in Surfers Paradise during the Drink Safe Precinct trial.

⁵ For the purposes of this snapshot, compliance operations include after hours inspections and day time inspections.

⁶ For the purposes of this snapshot, figures relating to support services include both Drink Safe Precinct funded services and support service activity that is otherwise funded. These figures have been obtained from the weekly reports provided by support services to the Department of Communities. Some discrepancies may exist between the figures reported in this snapshot and those reported elsewhere by the Department of Communities; this may be due to different methods of calculation e.g. whether the operation of support service at Surfers Paradise on Thursday nights were included. Thursday nights have been included in the figures presented here because the Chill Out Zone ordinarily operates on Thursday nights (i.e. the Chill Out Zone operated on Thursday nights prior to the commencement of the trial), the operation of the Chill Out Zone on Thursday nights is currently funded under the Drink Safe Precinct initiative, Thursday nights are considered to be a particularly busy night in terms of the number of patrons frequenting licensed venues in the precinct and because extra police also patrol the precinct on Thursday nights under the Drink Safe Precinct initiative. The inclusion of Thursday night figures gives a better indication of the total number of patrons using this support service in the precinct during peak periods.

Figure 3: Chill Out Zone in Surfers Paradise

Chill Out Zone at night-time



Chill Out Zone



Chill Out Zone

The Chill Out Zone includes a purpose built van where patrons can go to rest, recover and relax as well as a mobile foot patrol team that patrols looking for people who might be in need of assistance or referral to the Chill Out Zone. The Chill Out Zone is located on Orchid Avenue and operates on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights.⁷

During the first three months of the trial, the Chill Out Zone offered support to patrons in the precinct on 36 nights — including regular Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights as well as Monday 27 December, Sunday 2 January and Tuesday 25 January.

During the first three months of the trial, the Chill Out Zone assisted 627 patrons in Surfers Paradise and distributed more than 10,800 plastic cups of water.⁸

Transport

A number of transport options exist for patrons to get to and from the Surfers Paradise Drink Safe Precinct — including bus services, private transport and taxi services. One of the most common ways is by taxi.

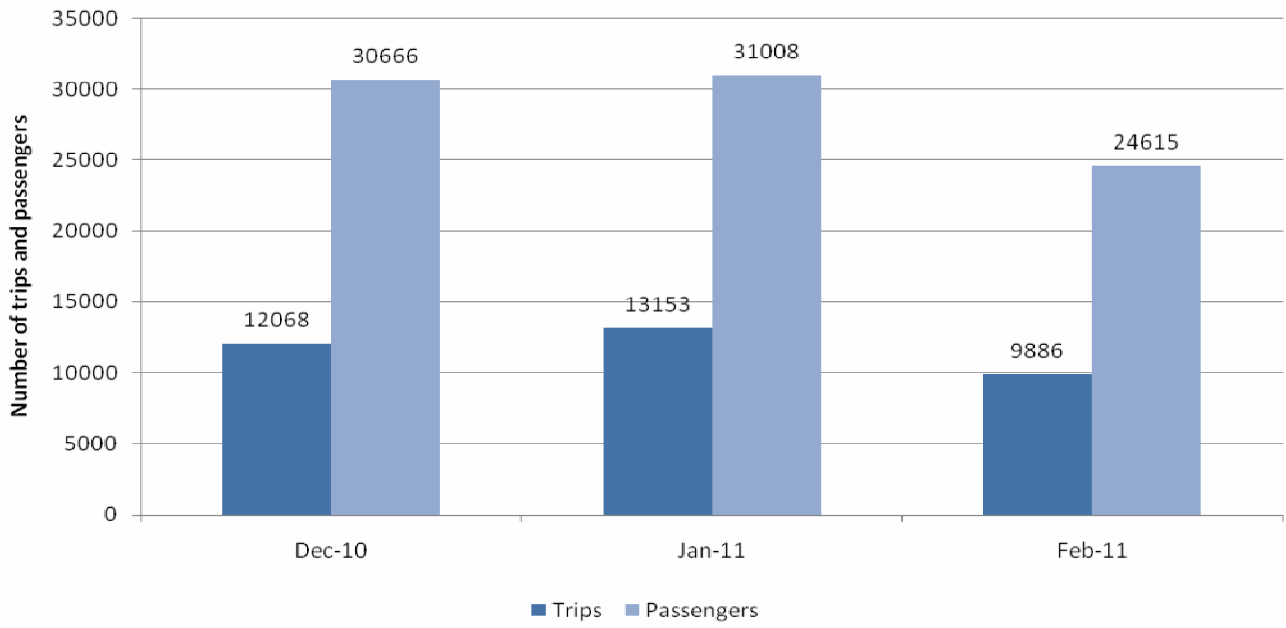
During the first three months of the trial, taxis transported 86,289 people home from the Surfers Paradise Drink Safe Precinct.⁹ More than 35,100 taxi trips departed the Drink Safe Precinct during this period.

⁷ In Surfers Paradise, the support service has been funded to provide support on Thursday nights through the Drink Safe Precinct initiative for the first six-months of the trial.

⁸ This figure includes patrons assisted on regular Surfers Paradise Drink Safe Precinct nights of Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights as well as additional Drink Safe Precinct nights that may be allocated on public holidays or for special events. Please note that comparisons between precincts can be misleading as the Chill Out Zone in Surfers Paradise is operational three nights a week - Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights.

⁹ These figures only include passengers and trips that departed from the Secure Taxi Ranks located in the Surfers Paradise Drink Safe Precinct and do not include trips or passengers collected in other parts of Surfers Paradise or trips that were hailed by passengers.

Figure 4: Number of trips and passengers collected from Secure Taxi Ranks in the Surfers Paradise Drink Safe Precinct¹⁰



Source: DTMR 2011. Secure Ranks December 2010 – February 2011.

¹⁰ Please note that comparisons between months can be misleading for a number of reasons, including the impact of the holiday period on patronage. Note there were five weekends in January and only four weekends in February.