

New Year's Eve crackdown in Glenelg and Elder Park

John Rau

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Additional public precincts have been declared for New Year's Eve in Glenelg and extending the City West precinct to Elder Park.

Under the *Summary Offences Act* the Attorney-General can declare public precincts, giving police similar powers to those they already possess in a licensed venue. The declaration is made on the advice of SA Police.

The declaration will apply from 6pm on New Year's Eve until 6am on New Year's Day.

The City West precinct will be extended to the borders of Kintore Avenue, Victoria Drive, King William Road, War Memorial Drive, Montefiore Road and North Terrace.

The Glenelg precinct will cover the area between Pier Street, Chappell Drive, Anzac Highway, Brighton Road and the low tide of the Gulf St. Vincent.

SA Police have advised that declaring these two areas as a public precinct will be beneficial in reducing offences and increasing public safety on New Year's Eve.

Background

The City West declared public precinct applies to an area encompassing Hindley Street and operates from 6pm until 6am on Friday and Saturday nights.

The declaration provides the following powers to SAPOL officers:

- Conduct a metal detector search of a person;
- Ban a person between specified hours;
- Direct a person to move on, similar to the current powers in the Act;
- Provide an offence of "behave in a disorderly or offensive manner in a declared precinct" with a penalty of \$1250 or an expiation notice of \$250;
- Remove a child under the age of 18 years if the child is in the opinion of a police officer, in the declared public precinct in circumstances that place the child at risk.

Quotes attributable to Attorney-General John Rau

We want South Australians to have a good time celebrating New Year's Eve in a safe environment.

These temporary public precincts will mean SA Police have the powers to remove trouble makers and ensure families can enjoy themselves.

Trouble makers are on notice that disruptive behaviour will not be tolerated.

Quotes attributable to Police Minister Chris Picton

New Year's Eve is a time for people to relax and let their hair down and while we urge everyone to behave responsibly, our public precinct legislation gives us greater powers to help keep everyone safe.

Police have already used the new legislation to good effect in the city's west end and it makes sense that we extend that precinct to Elder Park and Glenelg for New Year's Eve.

The message is – if you're creating a disturbance, carrying drugs or weapons, or generally misbehaving – Police will be out in force and the chances are you will be caught.