



Reference:
Contact: Sharon Langman

24 July 2017

Liquor and Gaming NSW
GPO Box 7060
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Sir/Madam

Evaluation of the Community Impact Statement Requirement for Liquor Licence Applications

Hilltops Council appreciates the ability to provide input into the evaluation of the Community Impact Statement (CIS) Requirement for Liquor Licence Applications and thanks Liquor and Gaming NSW for the opportunity to provide feedback.

The licencing of venues that sell liquor has been an issue that has traditionally been discussed informally at a local level with Council and the NSW Police supporting each other in their duties. There have been instances, however where the Development Application process and the Liquor Licence Application process have not aligned, where the preparation of a CIS post development consent has given rise to potential inconsistencies between development consent documents and liquor license requirements.

The CIS requirements and exemptions for low risk applications are often unclear for both the community and the applicant; and may represent a duplication of the planning process. In the process of lodging a development application, a proponent must provide an assessment of the likely impacts of the development as part of the application and this taken into account in the consideration of the proposal. Larger developments, such as supermarkets, bars, clubs, hotels, that involve the sale of liquor are referred to the NSW Police Local Area Command for crime risk assessment as part of the planning process.

For high risk and first use licenses, the misalignment of the planning and licence processes could be streamlined by establishing an integrated approval process under Part 4, Division 5 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979. Such a system would ensure that any development consent is assessed through the planning system by the consent authority and agencies prior to any approval being granted and would remove the potential for inconsistencies between licences and consent documents. Such an integrated approach through the planning system would allow for greater community notification and participation as Councils are the closest form of government to the community; would allow cumulative impacts in time, place and regularity, to be assessed; and provide broader agency approach to regulating the licensing system.



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The use of exemptions through the existing State Environmental Planning Policies (such as exempt and complying development) for low risk applications may be appropriate. This, together with the development application referral process and integrated planning system, would cater for the three different risk levels of liquor licences that currently exist. Such a system would not place any additional burden on Council, except for the need for referral, as applications that require a liquor licence generally require development consent under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979 where the community impact, short term and long term; social cohesion; traffic; noise and cumulative impact are assessed in the consideration of proposals.

Council looks forward to working with Liquor and Gaming NSW in the implementation of any changes to the requirements for community impact statements in liquor licence applications and would be happy to discuss any of the matters contained in this submission.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sharon Langman', written in a cursive style.

Sharon Langman
DIRECTOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH