

From: Jo Holder

To: CIS Evaluation

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Subject: Submission on Community Impact - Liquor & Gaming NSW Evaluation of the Community Impact Statement

requirement for liquor licence applications Discussion Paper

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Submission on Community Impact - comment on the Liquor & Gaming NSW *Evaluation of the Community Impact Statement requirement for liquor licence applications Discussion Paper*.

From: Jo Holder, co-convenor Darlinghurst Resident Action Group

The current system is flawed and is not adequately addressing the social impact of liquor licences and community members are not being genuinely consulted. There is a clear need for reform. Reform of the CIS must ensure that it addresses four key areas:

1. the need for greater transparency and objectivity
2. giving communities a voice
3. reversing the onus of proof
4. properly resourcing assessors and regulators.

We support the Recommendations from NAAPA of which we are a foundation member.

Recommendations

1. That the NSW Government make liquor licencing processes more transparent and improve public awareness, engagement and community input to these processes.
2. That the NSW Government make the CIS a requirement for all licence applications and notify at a minimum the local consent authority, local police and all occupants of neighbouring premises within the primary trade area.
3. That the NSW Government make the CIS and all supporting documentation, including the social impact assessment, publicly available in real time on the Liquor and Gaming Application Noticeboard. Any submissions made in favour or opposition of a licence application should also be published.
4. That the NSW Government establish an independent Community Defender's Office (CDO) to support communities in licensing matters. The CDO should consist of an advisory service and central information service, with staff that have appropriate skills and expertise in alcohol related planning and licensing systems, including legal skills and an understanding of community needs and expectations.
5. That the NSW Government ensure that the onus of proof is on applicants, not community objectors.
6. That the NSW Government properly resource ILGA to monitor compliance and independently assess every application.

7. That the NSW Government keep community consultations at the Development Application (DA) process and the liquor licence CIS process separate. Local Council should also be resourced and supported to adequately assess a DA.

Yours sincerely,

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