



**Wednesday 20 February 2019**

## **FIRST STRIKE FOR LICENSEE OF HARBOUR VIEW HOTEL FOR BULLDOGS' 'MAD MONDAY'**

The NSW Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority (ILGA) has penalised the licensee of Sydney's Harbour View Hotel for offences that occurred during NRL team Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs' 'mad Monday' celebrations.

ILGA has imposed a first strike under the Three Strikes disciplinary scheme on licensee John Watt, who was found to have permitted both intoxication and indecency on the licensed premises.

ILGA is also proposing extra conditions on the hotel's liquor licence to reduce the risk of future offences.

The penalty follows Liquor & Gaming NSW's investigation into a report from NSW Police about behaviour of a number of people attending the Bulldogs' end-of-year celebrations at the hotel on Monday 3 September last year.

At the function held on the hotel's outdoor rooftop area, club players were seen to strip naked and dance, climb on to tables and fall off stools.

Police reported that the duty manager clapped and cheered while the lewd behaviour was taking place.

On leaving the hotel, one player fell and then vomited on the footpath.

Because of the openness of the hotel's rooftop area, much of the behaviour was visible to people outside the venue, including those finishing the Harbour Bridge Climb – and attracted national media coverage in the days following the event.

ILGA chair Philip Crawford said all venues need to ensure they comply with responsible service of alcohol requirements and be vigilant to prevent offences such as obscene conduct.

"The behaviour allowed by this hotel on its premises during the Bulldogs Mad Monday event is totally unacceptable and a clear breach of the law," Mr Crawford said.

"The vast majority of our state's pubs, clubs and bars do the right thing and provide a safe environment for patrons to enjoy themselves.

"But as this case shows, there can be serious consequences for venues that permit intoxication and other offences."

The first strike starts on 16 February 2019 and expires on 16 February 2022.

Under the Three Strikes scheme licensees with strikes face a range of remedial action and those incurring three strikes can have their licences suspended or be permanently banned from the industry.

ILGA is proposing the following conditions on the hotel's licence:

- operating in line with an agreed Plan of Management
- specific requirements for keeping CCTV footage
- procedures to keep crime scenes intact at the hotel.

Read ILGA's [full decision](#).

**Media inquiries: Eric Aubert 02 9995 0794 or 0438 207 294**