



Monday, 30 April 2018

REVIEW OF LICENCE CONDITIONS FOR 14 NEWCASTLE CBD VENUES

The Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority (the Authority) has received a report (the Horton Report) from Mr Jonathan Horton QC on his independent review of conditions imposed by the former New South Wales Liquor Administration Board in 2008 upon the liquor licences of 14 late trading hotels located in the Newcastle CBD.

Mr Horton conducted a process of public consultation between November 2017 and February 2018, receiving over 90 written submissions from a variety of stakeholders including NSW Police, public health bodies, academics, licensed businesses, industry bodies, private individuals and special interest groups. Mr Horton also conducted personal interviews with numerous submitters, all of which are summarised in the Horton Report.

The Authority expresses its gratitude to those members of the community who provided the written and oral submissions that informed the Horton Report.

Having regard to the information provided in the Horton Report and having formed its own view on the submissions received by Mr Horton, the Authority is considering taking the following action, of its own initiative, under section 53(2)(b) of the *Liquor Act 2007* with respect to the licences of the 14 Newcastle CBD hotels:

- Maintain the following conditions:
 - mandating a patron lockout from either 1:00 am or 1:30 am and closing times of either 2:30 am or 3:00 am, as the case may be.
 - requiring that a staff member be employed after 11:00 pm with the sole function of supervising the responsible service of alcohol.
 - requiring that the sale or supply of liquor cease 30 minutes before closing.
 - prohibiting the stockpiling of drinks.
- Revoke the condition requiring use of a common radio network among the 14 venues, on the basis that the technology is out of date.
- Replace conditions requiring quarterly auditing of Plans of Management with a new requirement for each licensee to update those Plans and perform an annual review in consultation with NSW Police.
- Vary the condition requiring the notification of the licence conditions to staff, with a requirement to update staff on the revised Plans of Management and the conditions, as amended, while additionally informing all new staff members upon employment.
- Vary the condition restricting the service of certain drinks so that the prohibition against the sale or supply of “shots” after 10:00 pm shall now prohibit “*drinks commonly known as shots, shooters, slammers or bombs or any other drinks that are designed to be consumed rapidly*” after 10:00pm. The condition shall no longer require free water stations on every bar, on the basis that clause 51 of the Liquor Regulation 2008 now requires free drinking water to be made available wherever liquor is served. The condition shall otherwise remain unchanged.

As required by section 53(4) of the *Liquor Act 2007*, the Authority will now communicate its proposed course of action to the relevant licensees, and will give those licensees a period of 21 days to respond. The Authority will then make its final determination which will be published on its website shortly thereafter.

A copy of the Horton Report and all submissions may be obtained from the following link
<http://www.liquorandgaming.nsw.gov.au/Pages/ilga/consultations/Newcastle-CBD-venues-review-licence-conditions.aspx>