



Friday, 31 August 2018

FINAL DECISION ON REVIEW OF NEWCASTLE LIQUOR LICENCE CONDITIONS

The NSW Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority has issued its final decision on the review of licence conditions for 14 hotels in Newcastle's CBD.

The decision confirms ILGA's initial response to the review issued in April, with only one additional minor change being made to a condition relating to Responsible Service of Alcohol marshals.

ILGA based its findings on an independent review by Mr Jonathan Horton QC which involved consultation with stakeholders including NSW Police, public health bodies, academics, licensed venues, industry bodies, private individuals and special interest groups.

Chair Philip Crawford said the decision concludes the matter and gives certainty to everyone in the Newcastle community including the 14 hotels and stakeholders who contributed to the review.

"As we indicated in our initial response, we believe there is a strong case for maintaining the restrictions that currently apply to the 14 hotels, including patron lockouts and the requirement to stop serving alcohol 30 minutes before closing," Mr Crawford said.

Changes that will proceed as a result of the review include:

- No longer requiring the use of a common radio network among the 14 venues.
- Plans of Management to be revised in consultation with NSW Police, and then varied from time to time only after consultation with NSW Police, rather than audited on a quarterly basis.

After ILGA's initial response was published in April, licensees were given 21 days to respond.

After considering this feedback, ILGA has agreed to a further varying a condition so that only venues trading after midnight need to employ an RSA marshal, from 11pm, to supervise the responsible service and consumption of alcohol.

Previously this applied to all 14 venues from 11pm, irrespective of their closing time.

Mr Crawford thanked everyone who had contributed to the review via written submissions or by giving feedback at meetings Mr Horton held in Newcastle.

More information is available at:

<https://www.liquorandgaming.nsw.gov.au/Pages/ilga/consultations/Newcastle-CBD-venues-review-licence-conditions.aspx>

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