



Monday, 9 February 2015

10-YEAR BAN FOR SILK HOTEL NEWCASTLE LICENSEE

The Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority today published its decision to uphold a NSW Police complaint relating to the licensee of the Silk Hotel, located in Hunter Street, Newcastle West.

The Authority disqualified licensee, Silk Hotels Newcastle Pty Ltd, from holding a licence for ten years from 3 February 2015.

Mr Vasilis Moshos, the sole director of Silk Hotels Newcastle Pty Ltd, was also disqualified from participating in the NSW liquor industry as a licensee, approved manager, or close associate of any licensed business for ten years.

In upholding the NSW Police complaint, the Authority was satisfied that Silk Hotels Newcastle Pty Ltd and Mr Vasilis Moshos are not a fit and proper person to be the holder of a licence or be the manager of the licensed venue, and that the licence has not been exercised in the public interest.

The Authority found that the licensee and approved manager had been convicted of offences under the *Liquor Act* or the *Liquor Regulation 2008* while holding a licence or managing a licensed venue; failed to comply with the licence conditions, and engaged in conduct or activities that are likely to encourage misuse or abuse of liquor.

The Authority also found that acts involving violence against people or damage to property had frequently been committed on or near the licensed venue by people who have been on the premises.

The 10-year disqualification reflects the Authority's view that the licensee and manager had not acknowledged the seriousness of the adverse conduct found in the complaint and the consequences of operating a licensed venue in sustained contravention of licensing requirements.

The approved manager, Mr Moshos, has been subject to a separate order from Newcastle Local Court disqualifying him from managing licensed premises since April last year and the hotel had been closed following that order. As result of the Authority's decision, Silk Hotels Pty Ltd may not hold a licence and Mr Moshos may not hold a licence, be an approved manager or be a close associate of a licensed business for ten years. The hotel business has recently changed hands and an application to transfer the licence is currently being considered by the Authority.

In October 2014 the Authority granted a related Police application to revoke the extended trading authorisation for the Silk Hotel. As a result, the Hotel may no longer trade beyond midnight on Monday through Saturday or beyond 10pm on Sunday evening.

For a copy of the decision:

http://www.ilga.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/66941/Decision_Reasons_Complaint-under_Part9_Liquor_Act_2007-Silk_Hotel-030215.pdf

Media contact: Daniel Foley (02) 9995 0349