

Lynch's Hotel

Wagonga Street Narooma NSW 2546

Monday, 17th August, 2015.

Dear Sir

RE: Prohibition of Takeaway Alcohol Sales after 10.00 pm

Nearly 16 years ago my wife and I purchased Lynch's Coronation Hotel known locally as Lynch's at Narooma on the far South Coast of New South Wales.

Narooma is a peaceful seaside town with its main source of income from Tourism, Oyster farming and sundry small rural industries. We have an aging population with most of our young people having to leave the area in search of employment.

Lynch's Hotel has been "the heart of Narooma for over 100 years" and stands proudly much as it was all those years ago. Since owning the hotel our Restaurant has won many awards in the hospitality industry, for excellent food with a quality wine list, Lynch's is held in high regard by both locals and our many tourists.

As you can see, the focus of our hotel is not only to sell alcohol in a safe and friendly environment but to showcase our food and wine. To that end we have recently spent a considerable amount of money doubling the size of our eating areas and building a deck to facilitate outdoor dining. The majority of our diners in the evening do not leave before 10pm and regularly request takeaway alcohol when they depart. To refuse this custom is embarrassing for us and ruins the enjoyment of the night for our patrons. These takeaway sales are a large portion of our business and their loss will be felt keenly.

We have several nursing homes in our area and workers from there frequently call for a drink after their evening shift at 10pm. They have a couple of drinks, purchase their takeaway and head on home. Obviously I will miss these sales too!

Regarding our regular patrons – most do not drive to the hotel – they catch a cab, get a lift with friends or have a family member drive them. For them to remove takeaway alcohol before 10pm they must leave the premises with little chance of them returning. The 10pm closure of my bottle shop is a double edged sword. Either my patrons leave early having had fewer drinks with their friends or stay until their normal "go home" time and forfeit their takeaways. Either way I lose!

Country hotels help small communities by our continuous generosity. The hotelier is always good for a bite and we sponsor charity events, football, racing and any fund raiser going. However, of late with the general downturn of the economy many hoteliers are finding it difficult to maintain this

support. This 10pm bottle shop closure is just another nail in the coffin of country hotels, and jeopardise the communities they help.

My wife and I are appalled at the mentality of anyone who indulges in a cowardly 1 punch assault. However, it is important to advise you that our patrons are getting ready to GO HOME not OUT at this time of night.

We ask that you consider the information I have given you and in the light of “one size does NOT fit all” reconsider this legislation seriously and with the utmost urgency.

The closure of any hotel in country NSW is a loss not only to the licensees but to the community and the large number of staff they employ. Many in this industry are struggling and this unfair restriction of trade is just one more thing making it difficult to remain viable.

Yours faithfully,

D W Carter

Licensee and Freehold Owner