

22/1/18 NSW Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority

G.P.O. Box 7060

SYDNEY, NSW 7060/2001.



Attention: Liquor Licencing - Newcastle Review chair Philip Crawford.

Since the introduction of more sensible liquor licencing laws, there has been a remarkable difference here in Cessnock. No longer are children and drunks, ^{xx} roaming our streets at night, wilfully damaging property while their parents drink at hotels open till 3am. Police are no longer taking children home to empty homes, and my vehicle no longer gets its windows smashed by children throwing rocks in the early hours (probably angry at parents). No-one has been murdered in the streets outside hotels, no hotels are bombed by irate fathers of teenagers drinking themselves into early graves, fences have not had palings or letter boxes ripped out. No more burnt or overturned garbage bins strewn around the street and there is no loud music into the early hours, brawling and rowdiness in the streets, speeding cars, smashed alcohol bottles and glasses in the parks and business owners can probably afford to get insurance again for their shop-fronts in the CBD where the glass was smashed nightly.

It was like living in the Bermuda Triangle when living between the 3 venues open until 3am.

My health suffered while I endured this for years while trying to deal with living in a battle ground fuelled by alcohol, that my street became my existence took a life-threatening turn after I suffered a Takotsubo Heart event (heart attack) caused by stress when I foolishly agreed to give evidence to a Land and Environment Court enquiry into the effect of the hotel licencing laws in place at the time when one of the hotels had to apply to Council for renewal of their licence.

I had to be admitted to Emergency that afternoon, forced to leave the hearing quickly when I felt faint and ill from the stress and ended up in Intensive Care for 10 days. I am lucky to be alive.

I never want to have to deal with circumstances like that again, forced to live in an uninvil society where violence and criminal

2) behaviour is fuelled by alcohol is served by irresponsible hotel owners only interested in maximizing profits regardless of the health and wellbeing of our community, not to mention the welfare of their customers, some still teenagers and young men and women still growing their bodies and brains.

I vehemently oppose the re-introduction of late closing (esp. 3am) in hotels and clubs - no intelligent person needs or wants to drink alcohol till 3am - how can they possibly be ready to go to work 4 hours later? If they are shift workers, there are still weekends or days off to socialize in a seemly manner - why not enjoy alcohol with food in a restaurant?

No wonder there is so much domestic violence in this country. If less alcohol is consumed, surely the domestic violence will be reduced somewhat - just lessening that particular crime would be a good start.

It is about time that Cessnock, Newcastle and The Hunter generally grew up and realized that alcohol, despite being legal can be a dangerous drug, especially for teenagers, young adults and mentally damaged individuals with no moral compass need all the help they can get from a responsible public and the people we elect to govern, helping those who need it to learn that alcoholic behaviour creates bad situations that worsen the more alcohol is consumed and ruins health, brain development, relationships and depletes emotional control.

Please do not allow these travesties to increase by allowing the damage that excessive alcohol consumption to continue by relaxing the current laws that are helping restore our civil society.

Yours faithfully

Ms. B & Brown

Bernice Ann Brown

22/1/18

P.S. I have noted that the submission date has been extended.