

17/January/2018

Chairperson
Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority
Liquor & Gaming NSW
GPO Box 7060
Sydney NSW 2001
newcastle.review@ilga.nsw.gov.au

Review of liquor license conditions for 14 Newcastle CBD venues and other matters

Dear Mr Crawford

Please find following my submission to the above review.

I strongly support the retention of the current package of license conditions commonly referred to as the s104 Newcastle Conditions. I believe that any review of the same conditions should be conducted by ILGA in an open and transparent manner under the same legal provisions (conference) by which they originated.

I also support Superintendent John Gralton's strong public appeal for the preservation of the integrity of the package of conditions and agree to his proposal to strengthen the 'last drinks' provisions¹ given the available scientific evidence.

As a resident of Newcastle for 69yrs I am aware of the horrific alcohol-related violent incidents that occurred prior to the modest reduction in alcohol trading hours across these venues in March 2008. For years I had been witnessing, during the late hours at night, and early morning, horrific screaming, brawling, fights and sexual assaults, occurring in our streets and near-by parks. It wasn't safe for me to walk from my home, in Newcastle East, through the mall, alone, to and from the picture theatre, or restaurants. I am confident in doing that now; and that is surely a human right.

I am also very concerned that the reported rate of non-domestic assaults in our CBD whilst still falling, is still around 9 times the NSW average rate. The level of reported domestic violence in Newcastle is also almost twice the NSW average rate. This also is unacceptable and many of these incidents are alcohol related.

Given the overwhelming independent scientific evidence showing a strong association between last drinks times, liquor outlet density and alcohol related problems, I am strongly opposed to any increase in availability of alcohol (trading hours) and drink strengths for all licensed premises including those with standard trading hours.

An increase in alcohol availability is highly likely to result in increased alcohol-related

¹ <http://www.theherald.com.au/story/5073773/newcastles-top-cop-doesnt-hold-back-on-lockout-laws-review-he-wants-them-tightened/>

violence, related crimes including malicious damage, sexual assaults, disorderly conduct and a reduction in local amenity/quiet and good order of our neighbourhood. As a local resident, I am therefore very opposed to any dilution of our package of Newcastle conditions that have displayed proven success in reducing alcohol related anti-social behaviours.

Hotel owners should remember that their clients are also local residents for whom they have a duty of care.

Yours sincerely,

Dr J.P. Galvin