

Department  
of Industry

Newcastle Review &lt;newcastle.review@ilga.nsw.gov.au&gt;

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## Present inquiry - Newcastle liquor licensing conditions

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Les Brennan [REDACTED]

Mon, Feb 5, 2018 at 10:50 AM

To: "newcastle.review@ilga.nsw.gov.au"  
<newcastle.review@ilga.nsw.gov.au>

My attention has very recently been drawn to the submission to you made by the Newcastle East Residents Group Inc in relation to a review of liquor licensing conditions in the Newcastle CBD. I have read that submission and lend my full support to what is contained therein.

A matter which was mentioned in the NERG submission but I believe was not fully addressed is what has arisen in the suburb of Hamilton. Since the Newcastle railway line was truncated and the service stopped at Hamilton, alcohol related problems in Hamilton have dramatically increased. Making Hamilton the end-of-the-line was a temporary measure whilst the Newcastle Transport Interchange was being constructed. Whilst called the 'Newcastle' Transport Interchange it is in fact located in the suburb of Wickham which is the next suburb from Hamilton as one travels in an easterly direction towards the Newcastle CBD.

The City of Newcastle, with the encouragement of the state government and various local bodies, is being revitalised. Newcastle City Council is actively encouraging businesses to move from what is now being referred to as the 'East End', to the 'West End', that is to the suburb of Newcastle West. The suburb of Newcastle West abuts Wickham. The 'troubles' which landed on the doorstep of Hamilton following the termination of the railway line there some few years ago, will now likely migrate back into the city proper. The intention of Newcastle City Council could not be more clearly on show than with the recent announcement by the Council that it has taken out of a long term lease of an entire multi-level building presently being constructed on the boundary of Newcastle West and Wickham, a few short metres away from the newly completed interchange. In other words the Council is closing down its business activities in the present CBD and moving west.

If the present liquor licensing conditions are relaxed then, by accretion, there is likely to be a return to the bad old days. The only winners will be the liquor industry.

The police are on the side of leaving the *status quo* in place, the emergency services are on side, and the community is on side. People continue to enjoy themselves under the current licensing conditions - restaurants and liquor outlets appear to be doing a good trade. Newcastle CBD has become a very safe place to venture into at night.

If ever it was appropriate to invoke the old adage "if it ain't broke, don't fix it" - this is the appropriate situation.

L. J. Brennan  
Resident  
[REDACTED]