

Department  
of Industry

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

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# Submission to the Newcastle CBD Liquor Licence Conditions Review

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To: "newcastle.review@ilga.nsw.gov.au"  
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Wed, Jan 24, 2018 at 9:02 AM

Dear Mr Horton,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the *Newcastle CBD Liquor Licence Conditions Review*.

I would like to offer my support to the submission prepared by the NSW ACT Alcohol Policy Alliance (NAAPA). NAAPA is a coalition of 48 organisations working to reduce alcohol-related harms by ensuring that evidence-based solutions inform alcohol policy discussions in NSW and the ACT.

I support maintaining the Newcastle conditions.

The Newcastle conditions are internationally recognised and have paved the way for evidence based policy. They have been thoroughly reviewed by researchers from Newcastle University, John Hunter Hospital and other Australian institutes showing a direct relationship between their implementation and the sustained and overwhelming reduction in night-time assaults. The implementation of these policies resulted in a 37 per cent reduction in night-time alcohol-related assaults and no displacement of harm to adjacent late-night districts.<sup>[i]</sup> Five years on, the positive effects were sustained with alcohol-related assaults down by 21 per cent per hour on average.<sup>[ii]</sup>

This scientific evidence is also supported by the latest data from the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR). This data shows that since October 2007, there has been a reduction in the non-domestic assaults recorded by police in Newcastle and Newcastle West on Friday and Saturday night.<sup>[iii]</sup> Over the ten year period there has been a 79 per cent reduction in non-domestic assaults in Newcastle and Newcastle West on Friday and Saturday night.

The local businesses have not suffered because of the Newcastle conditions. Data from Newcastle Police demonstrate that from March 2008 to July 2015, there has been a 140 per cent increase in on-premise liquor licenses in the Newcastle CBD. It has been continuously argued by some in the alcohol industry that the measures have resulted in business closures and have destroyed Newcastle's nightlife but this is clearly not the case. This is just another industry tactic to water down the measures and remove evidence-based policies.

There is clear community support from Newcastle residents. A survey of Lower Hunter household members found that 77 per cent of community members supported the reduced trading hours conditions and 80 per cent of community members supported the lock-out conditions.[iv]

There is also significant support among NSW adults for alcohol harm-minimisation policies: [v]

- 80 per cent support a closing time for pubs, clubs and bars of no later than 3am
- 68 per cent support stopping the sale of alcohol 30 minutes before closing time
- 67 per cent support placing a limit of four drinks on the number of drinks a person can purchase at one time after 10pm

The Sydney measures open loop holes and create risk for Newcastle. The Government has a history of backtracking on its evidence-based policy measures in the Sydney CBD and Kings Cross and should not do the same with Newcastle. It is evident that the Newcastle conditions are working and should remain in place.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to raise these important issues with you.

Yours sincerely,

Luke Giles.

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[i] Kypri, K., Jones, C., McElduff, P., & Barker, D.J. (2010). Effects of restricting pub closing times on night-time assaults in an Australian city. *Addiction* 106 (2): 303-310.

[ii] Kypri, K., McElduff, P. & Miller, P. (2014). Restrictions in pub closing times and lockouts in Newcastle, Australia five years on. *Drug and Alcohol Review* 33(3): 323–6.

[iii] NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research. (2017). NSW Recorded Crime Statistics Oct 2000 to Sep 2017: Number of non-domestic violence related assaults recorded by the NSW Police Force in Newcastle and Newcastle West as occurring on Friday and Saturday nights, 10pm to 6am. Reference: jh17-15776

[iv] Wiggers, J. Presentation. Research evidence for reducing alcohol-related harm and impact of Newcastle s104 licensing conditions - 2008-2011. University of Newcastle.

[v] Foundation for Alcohol Research Education (2017). Annual Alcohol Poll: Attitudes and behaviours. FARE: Canberra