

Philip Crawford
Chairperson
Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority
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29 January 2018

Re Newcastle City Council Submission

Dear Mr Crawford

I highly recommend that you treat Newcastle City Council submission as an individual response or as an adjunct to the AHA submission for a number of reasons:

1. No ratepayer consultation was undertaken. Newcastle community members were not afforded an opportunity to consider and respond until after its recommendations were lodged with the authority
2. Requests for community consultation prior to the council submission were refused
3. The police and other enforcement authorities were not consulted
4. Healthcare professionals and health researchers were not consulted
5. Council recommendations to the authority represent business discrimination and are ineffectual in monitoring liquor conditions
6. Council recommendations are a backdoor method to totally undermining the Newcastle Conditions
7. Council submission indicates that it is acting as an advocate for the liquor industry
8. Council does not present independent research to support their arguments
9. The latest community survey conducted by the council found around an 80% approval rate from residents and patrons for the operation of the current conditions
10. The council has ignored the unique Newcastle conditions including that it has NINE times the NSW state average non domestic violence

Hence I strongly encourage you to reject any claim by Newcastle City Council that it legitimately represents the views of the community and its ratepayers with respect to varying or revoking any or all of the individual measures contained with the package of life and cost saving provisions.

Council does not legitimately speak for the community with respect to seeking impractical and unworkable exemptions to the current conditions that to a large extent, owe their sustained success to the creation of a level playing and relative “uniformity” across all licensed premises in our CBD over the last almost 10 year period

And, I support the retention of and advocate for the strengthening of the current package of license conditions commonly referred to as the s104 Newcastle Conditions.

Furthermore, any variation to the Newcastle conditions needs to be undertaken in an open and transparent manner and under the same legal provisions by which they originated.

As Newcastle East resident and business owner I oppose any relaxation of the Newcastle conditions that have been successful in reducing alcohol related anti-social behaviours and crimes and contributed towards a more livable and convivial Newcastle city.

Yours faithfully

Maria Charlton

Resident and business owner of MAP Marketing

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