

Planning and Regulatory.PCrystal/JGaynor
Reference:
Phone: 02 4974 2707



5 February 2018

Mr Horton
Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority
Email: newcastle.review@ilga.nsw.gov.au

PO Box 489, Newcastle
NSW 2300 Australia
Phone 02 4974 2000
Facsimile 02 4974 2222
Email mail@ncc.nsw.gov.au
www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Horton

**NEWCASTLE CITY COUNCIL SUBMISSION ON REVIEW OF LICENCE CONDITIONS
FOR 14 NEWCASTLE CBD VENUES**

Please find enclosed a copy of Newcastle City Council's submission on the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority's review of Newcastle CBD liquor licence conditions.

Council is very pleased to contribute to the review. The CBD liquor licence conditions have formed a significant component in the governance of Newcastle's night-time economy for the last decade. Undoubtedly there has been a marked decline in the number of incidents of non-domestic alcohol-related violence in the CBD since the introduction of the measures. Also notable has been the growth in a more diverse range of venues, led by smaller style establishments and licensed restaurants.

During this decade, Newcastle's revitalisation has accelerated considerably. It is Council's view that a well-managed night-time economy has a valuable role to play in the urban and economic renewal process. Fundamental is the continuation of measures that research shows to provide safer venues. However, the maturation of the city's night-time economy provides an opportunity to move forward from a position of strength to consider how other social values such as diversity, inclusivity, vibrancy and creativity can equally shape the future of Newcastle at night.

Council is a strong supporter of measures to address excessive alcohol consumption and alcohol-related crime, and reducing their negative impacts on the community. We recognise the important contribution that licensed premises can make to affect this direction, through good business, responsible alcohol service and venue management models and practices.

Our submission reflects the present challenge of balancing these various priorities and perspectives to inform a future-focused approach to the effective management of what is one of Australia's major night-time economies. Reflecting this challenge, the submission was developed collaboratively by Council officers representing both community safety and city revitalisation, guided by Newcastle City Council's Dr Nathaniel Bavinton. The recommendations also align (or are consistent with) Council's Safe City Plan 2017-2020 and draft Night-time Economy Strategy 2018-2021.

Dr Bavinton is an urban sociologist, strategic planner and social researcher. He has spent over a decade conducting research and planning focused on interconnections between governance, urban planning and design, community, consumption and culture. His doctoral research focused on the night-time economy and was awarded Thesis of the Year in 2011 by the Australian New Zealand Association of Leisure Studies for its contribution to understanding the dynamics of cities at night.

The submission was prepared following meetings with a number of stakeholders including Tony Brown from Hunter Multicultural Community Drug Action Team, Rolly de With from AHA Hunter, Corey Crooks from the Newcastle Liquor Accord and Superintendent Brett Greentree, Commander of Newcastle City Police District, as well as, several of his staff.

The submission was unanimously supported by Council at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 23 January 2018.

Should you require any further information please contact Dr Bavinton on 4974 2878.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J Bath', written in a cursive style.

Jeremy Bath
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

NSW Government

Review of Newcastle CBD Liquor Licence Conditions

Newcastle City Council Submission - January 2018

BACKGROUND

On 21 November 2017 the NSW Government announced an independent liquor law review of the range of special conditions that have applied to 14 hotels and bars in Newcastle's Central Business District (CBD) since 2008.

The review will consider whether the policy objectives of these conditions remain valid and their terms appropriate, for securing the intended objectives.

As a leader in collaborative reforms and strategy in this field, Newcastle City Council (NCC) provides this submission which includes recommendations to guide the review, together with several options to enhance the legislation and provide a safe night-time economy in Newcastle. The submission is evidence based and consistent with NCC's strategic objectives set out in the Council's Safe City Plan 2017-2020¹ and the draft Newcastle After Dark: Night-time Economy Strategy 2018-2022². The submission was unanimously endorsed by the elected Council at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 23 January 2018.

POLICY CONTEXT

Newcastle is both the second largest non-capital urban centre, and the second oldest city in Australia. The Newcastle Local Government Area (LGA) is home to 152,948 people (2016 census) and is expected to grow by an additional 32,000 people by 2036. The city welcomes about 4.1 million visitors each year. Newcastle is at the centre of the Lower Hunter region (600,000 people) serving as the primary provider of business, health, education and professional services.

The city has undergone a major transformation over the last two decades, with strong growth in services, activity and employment. In particular, there has been growth in knowledge industries, with the expansion of health, higher education, research centres, defence industries and professional and technical services. These industries, along with the traditional energy and engineering sectors, are providing the foundation for the growth of Newcastle and the broader region.

Going forward, there are a number of key elements that will shape the future growth of Newcastle LGA and these include:

- City centre revitalisation³ - regeneration of the CBD as a place to live, work, invest and visit, eg. in 2016-17 private investment development pushed through the \$1 billion milestone. 2017-18 is likely to see development exceed \$1.5 billion. The city centre rail interchange opened in October 2017 and light rail will commence operation in March 2019.
- Port of Newcastle development - approved grant to build a \$12.7 million cruise terminal and enhancement of coal export capacity and expansion for other products.
- Development of the visitor economy - through the cruise economy and new airline routes to Newcastle Airport.

¹<http://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/Newcastle/media/Documents/Strategies,%20Plans%20and%20Policies/Plans/Newcastle-Safe-City-Plan-2017-2020.pdf>

²<http://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/Community/Health-Safety/Newcastle-After-Dark>

³http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/~/_/media/Files/DPE/Strategy-documents/newcastle-urban-renewal-strategy-2012-part-1-of-6.ashx

- City centre University precinct - University of Newcastle city centre campus was a catalyst project with more stages to come over the next 10 years.
- Digital connectivity in the smart city - The Newcastle Smart City Strategy 2017-2021⁴ was adopted in 2017, and two major grant projects are underway: the \$18m Hunter Innovation Project; and the \$15m Smart Moves Project.

Newcastle has a number of strategic advantages that create opportunities for our continued transformation and ongoing growth:

- Newcastle offers high residential amenity with its coastal location and cultural, sporting and leisure facilities and is an attractive place to live and invest.
- Newcastle has a creative culture that is being translated into business opportunities, through mentoring, venture capital programs and industry clusters.
- Newcastle's industrial base includes specialisations in heavy engineering, defence and aerospace.
- Newcastle is accessible and linked to national and international markets through a major port, airport, road and rail.
- Newcastle has a growing local, national and international reputation as a destination and events city for leisure, business, sporting and cultural events. The city is a four time winner of the World Festival and Events City award, it has been acknowledged by international travel brands Lonely Planet and National Geographic as a must-visit destination, and a smart city, creatively rising to the challenges of 21st century urban life. Earlier this year Newcastle's Merewether Beach was named Australia's best city beach, beating the likes of Bondi Beach NSW, Surfers Paradise QLD and Cottesloe Beach WA.

A vibrant and safe night-time economy will also be a key contributor to the city's revitalisation. Significant at both a national and regional level, Newcastle's night-time economy is presently the sixth largest in the country. It directly employs over twelve thousand people and accounts for 5.4% of the total Newcastle economy (\$1.358 billion in 2015).

Ten years ago, Newcastle's night-time economy was considered locally to have a sometimes problematic nightlife compared to the remainder of the State. Of particular concern was alcohol-related violence and anti-social behaviour in and around our licensed premises. Community concern regarding undesirable nightlife incidents peaked in 2007 and 2008, prompting a range of State Government agencies to develop a suite of interventions, collectively called the Newcastle 'Intervention', 'Model' or 'Solution', focused on restricting consumption of alcohol and the late-trading licensed premises of the Newcastle city centre. Still in operation today, these interventions were also introduced in the secondary nightlife precinct of Hamilton in 2010. Variations of the Newcastle Model were subsequently adopted by Sydney (CBD and Kings Cross), and by the Queensland Government (1am lock out law in Queensland safe night precincts was cancelled in January 2017).

⁴ <http://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/smart-city>

The complex nature of alcohol-related public disorder issues occurring also warranted an associated set of locally driven strategies. The Safe Newcastle: Alcohol Management Strategy (AMS) 2010-2013 was developed and implemented by NCC in response to growing community expectation of NCC's contribution to managing the detrimental impacts of alcohol in the city. Commenced in 2010, the principal focus of the AMS was to reduce alcohol-related harm and anti-social activities in the Newcastle LGA. It included a wide range of initiatives involving NCC, NSW Police, other State Government agencies and committees, Liquor Accords, University of Newcastle and business improvement associations. Many of the initiatives of the strategy have been successfully established as ongoing activities. Continuing its interest in supporting effective management of excessive alcohol consumption and its effects, NCC has followed AMS with subsequent locally driven community safety focused strategies.

Since implementation of the interventions, Newcastle has undergone significant change led by a strong growth in smaller 'low impact' night-time venues and a burgeoning creative and dining scene. In this context, we define low impact venues as those with a strong, consistent focus on noise management and responsible service of alcohol, and a proven track record of minimal alcohol-related and liquor licensing incidents. This has coincided with the growing pace of urban renewal projects transforming the city and an increasing city centre residential population (4,499 at the 2016 census; an increase of 1,500 people from 2006).

Newcastle's city centre contains the following late-trading licensed premises. As at November 2017⁵, it contains:

- 137 total licensed premises (437 LGA-wide);
- 88 trade under an on-premises licence (213 LGA-wide);
- 21 trade under a hotel licence (36 LGA-wide);
- 5 trade under a club licence (75 LGA-wide); and
- 6 trade under a small bar licence (6 LGA-wide).

In response to the city's revitalisation, increases in the inner city residential population, and the increasing diversity of late-trading licensed premises in Newcastle, NCC has developed the draft Newcastle After Dark: Night-time Economy Strategy 2018-2022. The strategy includes actions for making Newcastle's prominent nightlife areas more diverse, more inclusive and safer. Advocating for a greater diversity of late-trade offerings and options beyond those that are solely alcohol focused, is identified as a core principle in the draft plan. The strategy will be presented to the elected Council in March 2018, recommending it be released for community comment.

The review of the Newcastle CBD liquor licence conditions is an opportunity to build on the work done to date and provides a basis for integrating with Council's strategic direction for the city's night-time economy and revitalisation. The approach outlined below represents a balance between controlling undesirable alcohol related incidents through interventions that seek to stimulate the kind of city life that attracts broader participation and investment in Newcastle, day and night, together with a robust plan of management practices and compliance and a solid research base. The approach also seeks to strengthen the alcohol management elements within the reform framework and extend them beyond the existing venues subject to the conditions, to apply LGA-wide, to facilitate the growth of a safe and diverse night-time economy across Newcastle.

⁵ Liquor and Gaming NSW

RECOMMENDATIONS

Plans of Management and Compliance Audit Measures

Venues are currently required to develop and submit Plans of Management (PoM) as part of their liquor licence application process. Historically the quality of PoMs is highly variable, and their ongoing assessment in terms of assessing venue performance has not been consistent or clear. Council suggests the introduction of the requirement for PoMs to be more robustly prepared, and linked to closer scrutiny by the Liquor and Gaming NSW of premise implementation and disciplinary compliance.

NCC recommends linking the enhanced PoMs to a tiered framework of compliance audits (Level A, B and C) that rewards licensed venues that consistently demonstrate good management policies and practices, including alcohol-related harm reduction measures. Venues that demonstrate high performance would be considered eligible for exemptions subject to additional criteria such as venue audit compliance, and levels of alcohol-related incidents and noise complaints. It is proposed that continued non-compliance and poor performance would result in the removal of exemptions. NCC proposes that criteria and metrics for robustly assessing the level of performance of a venue within a closer vetted compliance audit process be developed collaboratively with key stakeholders.

Indicative - Standards of Performance for Compliance Audit Assessment				
	Level C	Level B		Level A
		Under performing	Performing to standard	
Audit frequency	Every 3 months	Every 3 months	Annual	Every 2 years
L&G NSW support provided	Yes	Yes	On request	On request
Existing disciplinary scheme provisions	Applied	Set time period to resolve issue/s	--	--
Exemptions	Revoked	Warning - subject to monitoring	Eligible for exemptions	Eligible for NCC determined trading hour exemption
Low Impact Venue (LIV) classification <i>(refer later in report)</i>	Revoked	Warning - subject to monitoring	--	Eligible for LIV classification

Recommendation: Introduce the requirement for Plans of Management (PoM) to be more robustly prepared, and linked to closer vetting by Liquor and Gaming NSW of premise implementation and disciplinary compliance.

Recommendation: The frequency of existing audits be replaced with a tiered framework of compliance audits (Level A, B and C) that rewards licenced venues that consistently demonstrate good management policies and practices, including alcohol-related harm reduction measures.

Recommendation: NCC proposes evidence based criteria for a tiered compliance audit standards of performance framework, including non-compliance mechanisms that return premises to current liquor licence conditions if standards of performance are not met.

Alcohol and Trading Time Restrictions

International⁶ and Australian⁷ research provides strong evidence of correlations between extended hours of trade and levels of alcohol related violence.

Generally, the later trade is permitted and alcohol is sold, incidents of violence are higher. More specifically, adding or subtracting just one or two hours of trading after midnight can make a substantial difference to violence rates⁸. A 2011 study⁹ into the Newcastle Model examined the effects of reducing trading hours of licensed premises from 5am to 3am. This reduction in trading time resulted in an estimated 37 per cent reduction in late-night violence. A similar finding was identified in a Perth study¹⁰, where adding one extra hour of additional trade after midnight was associated with a significant increase in monthly assault rates for hotels with late trading following the introduction of extended trading permits. How this research however relates to a diverse range of different venue sizes and styles is unclear. For example, a venue trading under a small bar licence for an extra hour may not have an equivalent impact on late night incidents by virtue of a different clientele, business and management model.

In line with this research, NCC supports a consistent time of night for both restriction of entry of 1:30am and trading close of 3:30am for all premises subject to the conditions, along with the existing 10pm sale of alcohol restrictions and conditions, as well as the Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA) requirements, no stockpiling and ceasing sales 30 minutes prior to closing time. The exception is to permit mixed drinks with more than 30mls of alcohol condition for all licensed premises to 12am.

NCC will continue the case-by-case determination of premise trading hours through its development assessment process. This supports the local government role in undertaking planning assessments of 'time of use' related developments. NCC would take the status of a licensed venue as low, medium or high impact under consideration within all development assessments for extension of trading hours. Low impact venues would be approved to trade beyond 12am, in accordance with liquor licence category restrictions on a trial system on the following basis:

- 12 month trial, with annual renewal based on achievement of a Level A in Liquor and Gaming NSW assessed compliance audit;
- Failure to comply with low impact venue criteria would see exemptions revoked;
- All venues subject to withdrawal of exemptions and return to current liquor licence conditions if audit standards not met; and
- Supported by research outcomes (refer later in report).

Recommendation: NCC supports a consistent time of night for both restriction of entry of 1:30am and trading close of 3:30am for all premises subject to the conditions.

Recommendation: NCC supports retaining an employee whose sole function is to supervise Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA) practices at the bar and throughout the premises.

⁶ Babor T, Caetano R, Casswell S, Edwards G, Giesbrecht N et al. 2010. Alcohol: No ordinary commodity—research and public policy (2nd ed.). Oxford: Oxford University Press

⁷ Kypri K, Jones C, McElduff P & Barker D 2011. Effects of restricting pub closing times on night-time assaults in an Australian city. *Addiction* 106(2): 303–10

⁸ Chikritzhs T & Stockwell T 2002. The impact of later trading hours for Australian public houses (hotels) on levels of violence. *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs* 63(5): 591–99; Kypri et al., (2011)

⁹ Kypri et al., (2011)

¹⁰ Chikritzhs and Stockwell (2002)

Recommendation: NCC supports retaining the existing suite of 10pm sale of alcohol restrictions, as well as the Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA) requirements, no stockpiling and ceasing sales 30 minutes prior to closing time, with the exception of the 'No mixed drinks with more than 30mls of alcohol' condition lifted until 12am. This recommendation is also subject to new recommendations on exemptions for low impact venues.

Recommendation: The condition of 'No mixed drinks with more than 30mls of alcohol' to be lifted until 12am for all licensed premises. This condition will enable venues the option of serving cocktails in a responsible manner while still retaining the existing suite of 10pm sale of alcohol restrictions.

Recommendation: Continue the case-by-case determination by NCC of premise trading hours. NCC would take as an input into decision-making the status of a licensed venue as low-medium-high impact in considering development applications relating to extension of hours of permissible trade. Low impact venues would be approved to trade beyond 12am, in accordance with liquor licence category restrictions (for example 2am closure of small bars) on a trial system on the following basis:

- 12 month trial, with annual renewal based on achievement of a Level A in Liquor and Gaming NSW assessed compliance audit;
- Failure to comply with low impact venue criteria would see exemptions revoked;
- All venues subject to withdrawal of exemptions and return to current liquor licence conditions if audit standards not met; and
- Supported by research outcomes.

Inter-Venue Communication

NCC acknowledges the importance of venues being able to communicate with each other to share information over the course of the day / night concerning incidents or persons of concern, identify potential incidents and facilitate rapid and collaborative responses to incidents. Significant advances in communication technologies have rendered dedicated radio links obsolete. NCC is of the view that more effective network options are available, however, they should be introduced holistically for all late-trading venues that are subject to the conditions, rather than left for venues to determine independently via an ad hoc approach.

Recommendation: NCC supports a transition from a shared radio network to advanced communication technologies for all late-trading venues that are subject to the conditions to enhance inter-venue communications.

Exemptions¹¹

Our vision for the city's late-night trade is for:

- more 'low impact' venues;
- alcohol consumption is robustly managed;
- low rates of site specific alcohol-related incidents;
- effective management of noise;
- positive crowd interactions inside and outside of venues; and
- diverse venues that attract diverse demographics.

NCC recommends implementation of a system that rewards licensed venues that have consistently demonstrated sound and effective alcohol related management policies and practices. The system for assessing effectiveness would relate to the degree of impact (low, medium, high). NCC believes with the right suite of measures, support and compliance monitoring, classification as a low impact venue could be achievable by a range of venues including cinemas, restaurants, craft beer and wine bars, live music and performance venues (acoustic performance,

¹¹ Freeing or state of being free from a liquor licence obligation or liability imposed on other licensed venues.

micro theatre, stand-up comedy and poetry). No one venue type would be excluded from achieving low impact status provided its business practices were maintained to the level of the eligibility criteria.

However, the impact of a venue on surrounding neighbourhoods is heavily influenced by venue size and patron capacity. The table below outlines expectations about the relationship between a venue's patron capacity and its ideal level of impact.

Venue Size	100 or less	100-300	300+
Ideal Impact	Low Impact	Low-Medium Impact	Medium Impact

The proposed Low-Medium-High impact venue framework designed to incentivise licensed venues to adopt business, alcohol service and venue management models and practices that mitigate negative impacts on the community and surround areas. It is not structured solely around liquor licence category (although that is a consideration), but seeks to integrate a range of criteria that collectively inform notions of impact.

The framework proposed is a tiered structure that incentivises venues to adopt improved practices, while retaining adequate controls to manage and penalise underperforming venue operators. Low Impact Venues (LIV) are those that contribute economically and culturally to the city's night-time economy without contributing directly to public disorder and alcohol-related harm. It is Council's proposal that the final list of characteristics, tiered metrics and indicators, and relative weightings in assessment would be refined through collaborative stakeholder engagement including Liquor and Gaming NSW and Newcastle Police.

The following is an indicative framework outlining the kinds of venue characteristics and impact indicators that NCC considers would warrant inclusion in assessments of low, medium and high impact.

Indicative - Low-Medium-High Impact Venue Framework			
Venue Characteristics	Low Impact	Medium Impact	High Impact
Alcohol Service Model	Table or Bar Service	Table or Bar Service	Bar Service
Food Service	Food Service Available at all times	Limited Food Service Available	No Food Service
Live Entertainment	Acoustic live music or theatre performance	Live music performance within existing noise thresholds	Amplified live entertainment after midnight
Hours of Trade	Close by 2am	Close after 2am	Close after 2am
Licensing Restrictions	Exempt from aspects of Newcastle conditions	Full Newcastle conditions	Full Newcastle conditions plus Violent Venues special conditions
Impact Indicators	Low Impact	Medium Impact	High Impact
Recorded Liquor Licensing Incidents	Less than 5	5-10	10+ licensing incidents
Alcohol related Assaults	Zero	0-8 recorded incidents	Presence on violent venues scheme (8+)
Venue linked Crime Data (exclude non-domestic alcohol related assaults)	Zero	1-10	10+ linked incidents
Plan of Management Assessment	High Compliance PoM Rating	Medium Compliance PoM Rating	Low Compliance PoM Rating
Annual Audit Assessment	Level A performance standard	Level B performance standard	Level C performance standard
Legitimate Noise Complaints	Few and immediately rectified	Some and addressed	Many and unaddressed

The low impact venue (LIV) classification would be supported by a range of exemptions available only to those awarded the classification. The exemptions could include extending restricted alcohol sales to 12am and potential removal of lockout requirements for those with the condition in place. The ability to be considered for exemption from the existing suite of liquor licence conditions would apply only to LIVs, incentivising a broad range of venues to work towards the classification. Further, opening the LIV classification up to all venue types as opposed to select types (eg. small bars) facilitates greater business diversification from a city revitalisation perspective. It will also assist to expand the number of venues actively working towards addressing excessive alcohol consumption and undesirable public disorder issues.

For licensed premises satisfying criteria as low impact, NCC supports implementation of trial exemptions. The exemptions would pertain to elements of the existing licensing conditions including moving the 10pm suite of drink restrictions to 12am. Council will, as required by planning legislation, separately consider later trading for venues, such as small bars and licensed restaurants beyond 12am that have satisfied low impact venue criteria and earned / maintained Liquor and Gaming NSW exemptions.

Recommendation: NCC supports implementation of trial exemptions for licensed premises satisfying criteria as low impact venues. Exemptions in this recommendation are suggested to be on the following basis:

- Exemption for a period of 12 months;
- Annual Liquor and Gaming NSW renewal based on achievement of at least a Level A standard in annual compliance audits, and continued satisfaction of low impact venue criteria; and
- Failure to comply with low impact venue criteria under existing audit and licensing requirements would see trial exemptions revoked.

Recommendation: All premises be subject to the withdrawal of the exemptions (and return to current liquor licence conditions) under existing disciplinary scheme provisions.

Research and Evaluation

The Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC)¹² carried out a study of evaluations that investigated the effectiveness of the liquor licencing reforms in Newcastle following the introduction of the 'Newcastle Model' in 2008. While the AIC concluded the evaluations provided support for the reforms, they could not definitively determine which components effected the change and how they operate and interrelate. While individual conditions such as lock outs and extended trading hours have been subject to research, the conditions as a collective package would however benefit from detailed research.

Further, investigation into state-wide downward trends over the past several years in all crime categories, including incidents of non-domestic assaults in licensed premises, along with a slight drop in exceedances of the National Health and Medical Research Council lifetime risk alcohol guideline¹³ (ie. consumption of no more than two alcoholic drinks on any day) is warranted to determine how this has affected alcohol related assault levels linked to licensed premises in Newcastle. It should be noted however that over the last year a spike in alcohol-related assaults has been reported for Newcastle (and Lake Macquarie)¹⁴. Given the increase is recent, additional time will be required to determine if it is indicative of a new trend or an isolated occurrence.

¹² Mann M & Willis M 2014. The Newcastle solution: A realist perspective. Paper presented to the Crime Prevention and Communities Conference, Melbourne, June 2014. https://prezi.com/lmjdu_6hkwzy/the-newcastle-solution-a-realist-perspective/

¹³ National Health Survey: First Results, 2014-15 reported by ABS
<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Lookup/by%20Subject/4364.0.55.001~2014-15~Main%20Features~Alcohol%20consumption~25>

¹⁴ http://www.bocsar.nsw.gov.au/Pages/bocsar_media_releases/2017/MR-NSW-Recorded-Crime-Statistics-Sept-2017.aspx

Development of an effective, revised package of liquor licence conditions for Newcastle can only be realised if grounded in a strong research base that includes the above elements. An independent evaluation of the revised conditions once implemented, would also provide evidence of the effectiveness of the measures in operation.

Recommendation: Investigate the effectiveness of the collective package of initiatives that comprised the 'Newcastle Intervention'. This recommendation would aim to understand the effect of individual and integrated conditions at the scale of the specific venue and liquor licence category.

- Topics for research would include interrelation of the licensing conditions with an assessment of impact of individual premise business and service models (eg. table service versus bar service), patron numbers, hours of trade, and relationship to other venues, alcohol consumed versus time of night, crowd street movement and self-regulation initiatives.

Recommendation: Develop a definition of low, medium and high impact venues. Definitions to be developed with stakeholders and confirmed as part of the research and be able to be independently assessed and verified.

Recommendation: Develop an evidence based standards of performance for compliance audits (including non-compliance mechanisms). Definition to be confirmed as part of the research and be able to be independently assessed and verified.

Recommendation: Implement research recommendations and definitions LGA-wide to ensure consistency of conditions and level competitive footing for businesses.

Recommendation: Undertake an independent evaluation of revised conditions (Newcastle Model 2.0), including enhanced PoMs and audit frequency:

- Incorporate peer review assessment of alcohol related crime / anti-social behaviour for specific venues (BOCSAR approved data); and
- Implement evaluation outcomes LGA-wide.

Recommendation: Commit representation from the Liquor and Gaming NSW Licensing division at the NCC Licensed Premised Reference Group (LPRG) monthly panel. The LPRG panel ensures collaborative input into liquor licence assessment processes. The LPRG has representation from Liquor and Gaming NSW Compliance division (seek to continue their attendance in addition to the licensing division), NSW Police, Hunter New England Health and NCC.