

Regulatory Impact Statement: Proposed Liquor Regulation 2018

As the peak alcohol industry body, Alcohol Beverages Australia (ABA) welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission in response to the Liquor Regulation Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS), which ABA understands has been prepared to inform the consultation process for the making of the proposed Liquor Regulation 2018.

Millions of NSW residents enjoy the responsible and moderate consumption of alcohol beverages each week as part of a healthy, happy and socially engaged lifestyle.

ABA welcomes the consideration of methods to reduce the regulatory burden associated with liquor licensing. By streamlining processes and reducing administrative burden, the alcohol industry can focus on creating jobs and positively contributing to the social and economic climate of Australia.

In particular, ABA commends Liquor & Gaming NSW in its acknowledgement that the current two-stage community impact statement is complex and inefficient without any added benefit to the community. ABA supports removing the 2-stage licence application process by avoiding the need for a Category B community impact statement. In an already heavily regulated industry, this is a positive step forward that will reduce the burden and unnecessary duplication on industry and applicants.

The Responsible Service of Alcohol changes seem, in principal, a positive step. However, the success of such measures, particularly in relation to assessing the regulatory impact on industry, will be dependent on the detail on the new courses and requirements.

ABA notes the proposal to increase the notification radius for advertising requirements from 100 metres to 200 metres. While this may seem on the surface a small change, but when investigated further there are some unintended impacts. For example, in high density areas such as central business districts or areas with a high number of apartments an increase of 100 metres could result in significant burden on applicants.

We note that there is a mechanism suggested whereby an exemption to the 200 metres could be requested. However, this is adding another step to the process and increasing the regulatory burden and associated timelines. We recommend that the advertising requirement remain at 100 metres.

ABA understands that the Liquor Stores Association of NSW have also made a submission which ABA endorses.