

Beach Hotel

To the three strikes scheme,

In short, we believe that overall venue compliance should detract from the necessity of issuing strikes. The threat of a strike is extremely harsh with debilitating consequences. That is, if the business has the correct business practices and the right measures in place, they are compliant, cooperative and professional, then a strike is too harsh to impose on such a business in the event of a human judgement error or a difference of opinion. For example, the judgement of intoxication is open to interpretation, it is far from black and white, especially with drugs playing such a large part in intoxication. An individual can be sober one minute and intoxicated the next with no alcohol consumed, so to have intoxication as a strike offence is too harsh for first time offenders who are actively doing everything possible to be compliant. Businesses that are engaged with Licensing in all its forms do not need 'an opportunity to review their business practices', as this is done frequently. There should be a warning system before the strike system begins for such venues who are responsible operators.

There should also be measures that impact positively on this scheme. For example, if you are an active part of the local liquor accord and your venue promotes a positive message to their punters through RSA practises then there should be some form of positive recognition.

Regards,

Beach Hotel
Byron Bay