

Beaches Hotel

Comments in regard to the operation of the scheme;

- The types of offences for which strikes may be incurred do not have a grading relative to their impact. The Three Strikes Scheme is a completely inadequate disciplinary system. The depth of social impact for some offenses clearly outweighs others and yet all are considered one strike. For example; sale or supply of liquor 1 minute outside approved trading hours may have a vastly less damaging outcome compared to the selling or supplying liquor to a 14 year old minor. The fundamental principles of the Three Strikes Disciplinary Scheme grossly fail to cover the complexity of the offenses. A more flexible and relative system to effectively deal with the sliding scale of severity of offenses needs to be developed.
- There is a significant degree of differential treatment depending of the type of license the venue holds. Anecdotal evidence suggests that venues with stand-alone packaged liquor licenses are under far less scrutiny from enforcement agencies than venues which hold a hotel license. This anecdotal evidence is supported by the fact that only 10 strikes have been incurred by packaged liquor licenses.
- The length of time for which a strike remains in force is clearly skewed to ensure that venues can easily be issued multiple strikes. Take for example a medium size hotel venue with approximately 1500 patrons per week that has incurred 3 strikes for patron related offences over 3 years. 3 offenses for every 234,000 patrons is 0.0013%, remarkably better than almost every major sporting event and music festival to which the strike disciplinary scheme does not apply.
- There are many negative impacts of the scheme; the major of these is that the owners and investors of the licensed venues are the ones ultimately being punished for what could be the result of low level staff members actions, resulting in the loss of a multimillion dollar business. These venues, in particular hotels and clubs, are often the life blood of the community which if shut down will drain millions of dollars donated each year to charities and local sporting clubs.

The “Three strikes and you’re out” political slogan stated by NSW premier candidate Barry O’Farrell was created as a tool to help gain position in office. In reality, the issues that this scheme was created to resolved are far too complex than the current one strike fits all legislation.

Owners of

The Beaches Hotel

The Ryans Hotel

Berowra Village Tavern

The Coast Hotel

Regards,

David Stead

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