

BITTINI Pty. Ltd.
ACN 001 779 880 - ABN 24 001 779 880
Hotels & Investments

11th January 2016

To the Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing NSW,

For the purposes of the statutory review, I would like to express my belief that the Three Strikes Disciplinary Scheme has failed in its attempt to solely target repeat offenders and unlawful industry operators.

I believe the scheme, if anything, has only encouraged these offenders to remain in the industry as it unfairly punishes the property owner instead – effectively giving each individual responsible for the offence a ‘get out of jail free card’.

One of the original purposes of the Three Strikes Disciplinary Scheme was to “encourage specific venue practices and behaviour aimed at minimising the risk of incurring strikes” however I don’t know of any venue owner or licensee who didn’t already run their venue in this way. To claim it was the scheme that encouraged this behaviour is false.

Further to this, I believe there have been a number of unintended consequences of this scheme including the fact that it acts as a deterrent for the licensee and manager to call the police during an incident for fear of incurring a strike.

With harsh penalties imposed upon the license and the ‘bricks and mortar’ of the venue, it is no wonder the financial institutions and insurance companies are beginning to question whether the hotel industry is worth taking the risk on.

As it stands, I believe the original intentions of the scheme have been far outweighed by the unintended catastrophic consequences to the hotel owners and investors. The parties responsible for the antisocial behaviour are no worse off for having committed the offence, while the businesses are crippled.

Changes need to be made. The wrong people are being harmed by this legislation while those who continue to offend are getting off virtually scot-free.

Regards,

Glen Stanford
Director