

Coast Hotel

To whom it may concern

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Three Strikes Disciplinary Scheme. For the past six years the Hospitality Industry in country NSW has undergone a massive downturn in trade. New laws, regulations and fees have impacted heavily on the owners/leasees financial position.

My own personal experiences are as follows;

1. We were breached for an intoxication offence in May 2013 when a patron was involved in an altercation after leaving our premises at a taxi rank 500 metres down the road. The matter was finally heard in June 2015 and we received an \$1,100.00 fine and legal expenses of \$15,000.00.
 - a. On top of this with the "3 Strikes Scheme" we also received our first strike.
2. In December 2014 we had a visit from an undercover OLGR Compliance officer who fined us \$1,100.00 for charging a \$5.00 door entry fee as he stated "I only want to play the poker machines". We fought this in court and was granted a Section 10 and placed on a good behaviour bond.
 - a. Although we avoided paying the \$1,100.00 fine, our legal expenses were over \$4,000.00. Considering the State Governments stand on Responsible Gambling practices I feel this is not sending a positive message to the general public.

As a small business employing 25 local staff we are finding it extremely difficult to continue to trade with the new risk based assessment fees introduced in 2015 along with the above comments. I also believe that the 3 years the strike stays on my licence along with the terms and conditions is too harsh.

Whilst the current liquor laws are proving to be beneficial to the general community, it is the cost of compliance that is a financial burden to the industry.

Regards

Michael John Cherote
Licensee
The Coast Hotel

