

Question on Notice: Department of Planning

Inquiry into the Music and Arts Economy in NSW

Question:

We have received untested evidence that the police generally oppose new liquor licences applications to expand into venues. The question that was put to us is: is that a case-by-case assessment or is that a statistical response to the issue of alcohol in the community and their perception of violence and managing it. As you are representing this submission, can you get some information from the police about their approach to applications for liquor licences or changes to liquor licences and venues? I know they make submissions to councils and councils are very reluctant to not accept those submissions. Liquor and Gaming regularly commented that we should ask the Commissioner about conditions prohibiting dancing and live entertainment. I am wondering if it is appropriate for you to get more information for us.

Response:

I am advised that each application is reviewed and assessed on its merits. New liquor licences and amendments to liquor licences are lodged with Liquor and Gaming. Residents/shopkeepers etc within a specified distance from proposed premises are notified of applications to allow for submissions. The NSW Police and councils can also make submissions on the applications. I am advised that NSW Police have licensing staff at each police station and then at a Region Level. Also, at the region level are alcohol spokespersons.

For more detail on matters relating to police submissions should be referred to the Police Commissioner. For more detail on matters relating to liquor licences and venues should be referred to the Office of Liquor and Gaming.