

Newcastle CBD LIQUOR ACCORD

Date & time	Tuesday 21 st November 2023 – 3.30pm
Location	Neighbours on Market St 2 Market St, Newcastle East

Minutes

Welcome and Apologies – Tracey Aria (Stockton Bowling Club), Emmily Acton (Newcastle City Council), Ryan Hawthorne (Coal & Cedar), Scott Clarke (Mo Brewing), Charlene Dawson

a. ***Adoption of Previous Minutes & General Business***
Previous Minutes distributed on 11th August 2023

2. **Treasurer's Report** – Paul Hunter

- Balance \$35,000 – invoices sent out a month ago. No expenditure

3. **Chairperson Report / Business Arising** – Mick Starkey

- 24/7 Commissioner visited Newcastle for Panel.
- Plans to begin looking at Newcastle's night time economy. Lots of consultation to revitalise City's night time economy.
- NSW State Government adamant they would like vibrant city night life
- Met with ILGR last week, positive experience. On board with revitalisation with emphasis on considering all stakeholders and business responsibilities fulfilled.
- Recently met with Council in relation to 'Outdoor Dining Policy'. Policy states if have furniture permanently outside venue means you will pay an annual fee of \$7,000. Attempting to have this flat rate removed and charged per square metre rate. Also advocating that outdoor space should be able to be used in accordance with your liquor licence up until midnight.

4. **Police Report** – Sergeant Trudi Cupples, Licensing Unit Newcastle City LAC

- Inspector Matt Harmin – relieving as Crime Manager at Newcastle City for next month or two

Statistic Overview

- 436 total licensed premises across Newcastle City (all types of licenses)
- Northern region average has 315 - Newcastle is above average
- Most licensed premise inspections between 3pm & 12am. Most incidents happen between 12am & 3am.

- Incidents involve victim or POI and their respective level of intoxication in last 12 months
 - No intoxication – this figure is down by 2%,
 - Moderately intoxicated also down by 2%
 - Well effected (intoxicated) increased by 4%
 - Alcohol related crime operation being held on weekend of 1st & 2nd December. Increased police presence
 - This year on trend to overtake last year on alcohol related assaults (non DV)
5. **Liquor & Gaming NSW Compliance Update** – Jye Cuskelly & Alex McCawley

Compliance Trends

- Inspectors undertake range of investigations: complaint based & pro-active inspections based on risk of harm
- Focus areas: regional inspections, compliance programs, festivals & major events, same day alcohol deliveries & sale of supply of liquor in unlicensed venues. In terms of Newcastle, focus on those involved in Stage 2 liquor trials and what impact that has on the local area.
- Another focus on VIP signage. Gaming and wagering team stress that internal related VIP signage must not be visible from the exterior of the venue. This would be a breach of the legislation. Check websites for VIP signage and remove if present
- Same day alcohol – new operators & new legislation. Consistent testing in this area.
- Alcohol related violence is a priority. Informs majority of risk-based investigations.
- Annual liquor licence fees wrapped up in September. Please ensure details have been updated ie. Approved Managers, ingoing/outgoing licensee transfers etc.
- Issues with primary purpose ie. Venue morphing. Starting trade as a restaurant and changing to a nightclub in the evening. Ensure you're trading within confines of liquor licence. Possible outcome from new owners/ renovations/ business restructures etc. Seek guidance from Liquor & Gaming NSW or Police if changing business model or unsure.
- 2022, 288 noise complaints – escalate in warmer months. Attempt to minimise complaints by meeting with residents and ensuring compliance with noise restriction on your liquor licence.
- Intoxication is a priority – venues picking up on intoxication but not until individuals are extremely intoxicated. Ensure staff awareness around policies and procedures in relation to intoxication. Provide consistent training on prevention of intoxication.

6. **Newcastle City Council** – Emmily Acton,

Venues Unlocked

The Venues Unlocked Program aims to increase the number of live performance venues with industry best-practice sound management, build the capacity for live performance, and generate greater vibrancy in communities.

The Venues Unlocked Program offers funding and support for NSW venues to address sound management challenges and remove the barriers impacting live performance opportunity.

Venues Unlocked has different funding and support streams for new and existing live music venues and hospitality businesses.

Venues Unlocked aims to:

- increase the number of fit-for-purpose live performance venues in NSW
- increase sector knowledge and expertise in best-practice sound management and sustainable live performance programming
- build the number of live performance opportunities for NSW residents and artists
- generate greater live performance diversity and vibrancy in communities.

The Program is delivered through Sound NSW and the Office of the 24-Hour Economy Commissioner.

Funding & support available for:

- Live Music Venues
- Hospitality Businesses

For further information refer to <https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding/venues-unlocked>

7. Next Meeting – TBA @ 5 Sawyers