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I refer to your client's Notice of Intention (NOI) to apply for a Packaged Liquor Licence for Against the Grind located at Shop 2/9 Young Street, Neutral Bay 2089 NSW.

Northern Sydney Local Health District (NSLHD) has an active interest in measures to prevent or reduce alcohol-related harm such as malicious damage, interpersonal violence, accidental injury and long-term health impacts.

NSLHD has concerns over the increased access to alcohol this licence will create and the negative cumulative impact it is likely to generate for the local community.

Our specific concerns regarding Against the Grind's packaged liquor licence include:

- The suburb of Neutral Bay already has an oversaturation of overall liquor licences in relation to the community they serve. This is evidenced by an outlet saturation rate that is 207% higher than the state average (L&GNSW LiveData tool). Furthermore, the packaged liquor outlet saturation rate is 131% higher than the state average, including four packaged liquor licences located within 500m of the proposed outlet (Liquorland, BWS, Vintage Cellars and Chambers Cellars).
- The health impacts attributable to alcohol remain a significant concern locally, with 687 Emergency Department (ED) alcohol-related visits to the nearby Royal North Shore Hospital between 1 January 2018 and 31 December 2018. The rate of alcohol visits per 1,000 unplanned ED visits at Royal North Shore Hospital was also 26% higher than the state average.
- The proposed licence is located within the North Sydney Local Government Area, which has consistently exceeded the NSW rate for alcohol-attributable hospitalisations over the last 10 years and is currently 33% higher.
- Whilst overall rates are relatively low compared to the NSW average, the proposed licence is located within a "medium" hotspot for domestic assaults. Recommendation 14 from the NSW Coroner's Domestic Violence Death Review Team Report 2015-2017 states:
"When making determinations regarding any alcohol licensing related applications in areas identified by the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research as domestic violence 'hot spots', apply the following criteria: For any applications pertaining to an extension of trading hours, or the development of new liquor outlets or bottle-shops in domestic violence hot spots, there should be a rebuttable presumption against granting the application"
- The proposed licence is also situated within a "medium" hotspot for alcohol-related assaults and a "high" hotspot for malicious damage to property. This indicates that a higher proportion of these offences are occurring within close proximity to the existing premises.

However, the existing premises is relatively small in size (120sq/m) and the application states that the business intends to offer "an exclusive and boutique offering of fine wines (and only wines) focused on organic and local producers." NSLHD recognises that the limited scale of the packaged liquor licence and restricting the type of liquor sold to only boutique wine sourced from organic and local producers, has the potential to lessen the impact of an additional packaged liquor licence on the Neutral Bay community.

We strongly recommend the applicant consents to the following conditions on the licences:

- The licence will be restricted to boutique wine. For the purposes of this condition, “boutique wine” means wine that is manufactured by or on behalf of a boutique wine producer which crushes and bottles 250 tonnes or less annually, under its own label and is owned independently (not owned by a larger wine company).
- There will be no discounted wines or other discounted alcoholic products sold on the premises.
- The licensee will ensure that only quality ‘boutique’ wines will be available for sale on the premises, at a minimum price of \$16 per bottle.
- The licensee will not sell refrigerated takeaway liquor products from the licensed premises.

Should this proceed to a formal liquor licence application, and consent to the abovementioned conditions is **explicitly stipulated** within the Community Impact Statement, NSLHD would *not* deem it necessary to submit a detailed objection.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Jonathon Noyes, NSLHD Health Promotion (Lower North Shore) at 02 9462 9568 or jonathon.noyes@health.nsw.gov.au.

Kind regards,

Paul Klarenaar
Director
Health Promotion
Northern Sydney Local Health District