

Liquor and Gaming News

August 2015

Reminder: New Liquor and Gaming Commission from 12 August 2015

The Licensing Board held its last meeting on 5 August 2015. From today the Licensing Board and the Tasmanian Gaming Commission will be replaced by the new Tasmanian Liquor and Gaming Commission.

The Licensing Board was established under the *Licensing Act 1976* replacing the then State Licensing Court. Its principal role has been determining liquor licence applications, though in earlier times it was also involved in setting the standards of service and facilities to be provided at those licensed premises.

The amalgamation of the Board and the Commission is the result of a Government initiative to review all boards and committees identifying improvements to the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of regulatory arrangements.

Outgoing members of the Board, Ms Jenny Cranston (Chairperson), Mr David Logie (Member), and Ms Ann Cunningham (Member) are thanked for their valued service and commitment to the role. The final Board membership considered 283 applications around the State and provided a clear set of decisions as a basis for future decision making.

Members of the new Tasmanian Liquor and Gaming Commission will be Mr Peter Hoult (Chairperson), Ms Leanne Topfer (Member), and Mr Stuart Barry (Member).

Changing Commissioner Role

Under the new regulatory model for liquor, licensing functions currently being undertaken by the Board such as: granting, cancelling and conditioning liquor licences; liquor exemptions; and liquor restriction orders will be devolved to the Commissioner for Licensing, Mr Jonathon Root.

The Commissioner may refer liquor licence applications to the new Commission where he considers that it is in the best interests of the community to do so. For example, where there is a perceived or actual conflict of interest, perhaps due to actions of the Commissioner on other matters such as compliance issues or in circumstances where there was sufficient division of opinion amongst interested parties.

Applications made prior to 12 August

If your application was not resolved at the last Board meeting it will be considered by the Commissioner. There are no unresolved appeals to be forwarded to the new Commission.

Updated forms and information on the website

Updated forms and information on all licensing matters are available from our website at www.liquorlicensing.tas.gov.au, by selecting from the quick links on the right-hand side. Information is available for existing licence holders and for new applicants, and includes forms and fact sheets for frequent industry activities such as:

- Applying for a licence or permit;
- Transferring licences;
- Applying for Interim Authority to act as Licensee; and
- Applying to alter a licensed premises.

If you have any questions about the new Commission or the role of the Commissioner for Licensing please contact the Liquor and Gaming Branch on (03) 6166 4040 or email: licensing@treasury.tas.gov.au

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