

COMMISSIONER FOR LICENSING

Guidelines for Wet Areas

The Commissioner for Licensing can authorise the use of a wet area for outside consumption of liquor at sporting and other events. Wet areas are either authorised by the existing licence or by a permit. If the wet area is authorised by a permit, conditions are generally applied; these conditions can cover but are not limited to, the hours of sale, type of liquor container, availability of low alcoholic drinks and security provisions required. The following guidelines are provided to assist organisations to effectively manage their wet areas:

- Adequate security personnel should be engaged to ensure effective and safe management of the wet area. This should include sufficient licensed crowd controllers to monitor entry and exit points and to control patron behaviour. Guidelines for the engagement of crowd controllers are provided in the Commissioner for Licensing Information Leaflet, **Security at Licensed Premises**.
- The wet area should be clearly defined with appropriate physical barriers to delineate the area. The barrier should be highly visible, sturdy and strong enough to remain as a stable structure for the duration of the event. If the wet area is used on a regular basis then a permanent barrier could be appropriate.
- The wet area should have clearly marked entry/exit points, with appropriate signage at these locations. The width of the entry/exit points should allow security personnel to monitor the movement of patrons in and out of the wet area and to assist in ensuring liquor is not removed from the area.
- The size of the wet area should be sufficient to ensure that there is adequate space for the number of patrons expected. Adequately sized wet areas avoid issues associated with overcrowding which could increase the risk of frustration and conflict.
- The location of the wet area should be adjacent to the liquor sales point and/or outside booth and be an area that security staff and police have easy access to.
- The wet area should be situated so as not to block access to areas that other patrons and young people may need to use, such as the clubroom, kiosk/canteen and toilets facilities. The wet area should be located to allow clear thoroughfares to these facilities to reduce risk and nuisance, especially for families and young people.

It should be noted that Police Tasmania also monitor and enforce the conditions placed on liquor permits.

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Trim Ref: 12/180181[V2]
July 2016