

LONG JETTY

# Plan for liquor store rejected



The Long Jetty service station for which the application was rejected. Pictures: PETER CLARK

## SITE RULED TOO CLOSE TO CHILDCARE CENTRE

**Errol Smith**  
AN application to build a liquor store on the site of an existing service station at Long Jetty has been rejected by Wyong Council, mainly because it's too close to a childcare centre.  
Council officers recommended refusal saying the applicant had not demon-

strated the local and broader community would not be adversely impacted.  
The council voted 9-1 against the proposal with only Cr Doug Eaton in favour.  
Mr Eaton said he did not think the council could make a case against the application and it should be deferred and a decision left

to the Gaming and Liquor Board.  
Woolworths wanted to demolish the service station at 447-449 The Entrance Rd and build a new BWS outlet at a cost of about \$440,000.  
The store was intended to trade 8am to 8pm Monday to Wednesday, 9am to 9pm Thursday to Saturday and 10am to 7pm Sunday.

## PRECINCT STAND

■ The Entrance Peninsula Precinct Committee opposed the application from the outset fearing an increase in domestic violence.  
■ Secretary Doug Darlington said the area was adequately served with liquor outlets and the last thing they needed was another one.  
■ "We believe that domestic violence and anti-social behaviour would be exacerbated in our precinct, in which there are already five liquor retail outlets," he said.



Doug Darlington, secretary of the Entrance Peninsula Community Precinct.

There would have been employment for three permanent and three to five part-time staff.  
A council report said the site was in a community that suffered from higher than average alcohol-related hospitalisations, domestic violence, anti-social behaviour and a culture of high-risk drinking.

The weight of academic research confirmed that liquor outlet density was a key factor in negative social impacts, the report said.  
Cr Lynne Webster expressed deep concern about its proximity to a childcare centre and said many people had contacted her opposing the application.  
"There are lots of other

good things that could go on this site," she said.  
Cr Greg Best said the council needed to send a strong message that it was not an easy touch for a development of this type.  
"For anyone to think we don't have enough problems with alcohol, I'd suggest they're living on another planet," he said.