



THE ENTRANCE PENINSULA

COMMUNITY PRECINCT

ENCOMPASSING: THE ENTRANCE; THE ENTRANCE NORTH; LONG JETTY TOOWOON BAY; BLUE BAY & SHELLY BEACH

PO Box 349 The Entrance 2261

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12 July, 2011

Michael Whittaker
General Manager
Wyong Shire Council,
PO Box 20,
Wyong 2259

Subject: COUNCIL'S POLICY FOR THE DETERMINATION OF DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS FOR LIQUOR OUTLETS.

Dear Michael,

TEPCP wrote to you on 20 January 2011, strongly objecting to Woolworths' application for the development of a retail liquor outlet at 447-449, The Entrance Road, Long Jetty (DA: 11/2011). **See Attachment 1.** Due to the well proven link between the number of liquor outlets and the incidence of alcohol-related violence and assault in the Long Jetty area and the immediate surrounds, TEPCP made the following recommendations to Council:

1. Reject DA 11/2011: 447-449 The Entrance Road, Long Jetty - Liquor retail outlet, and
2. Commission NDRA to undertake a study of social impacts prior to granting approval for any new liquor retail outlets in the Shire.

TEPCP requested your urgent attention and advice on this matter.

On 13th May 2011, when the applicant withdrew their development application, WSC's Development Planner, advised TEPCP that, as a result, the DA was no longer under assessment by Council staff. To date we have received no advice on the second recommendation that Council please consider requiring applicants for liquor outlets being required to provide an NDRA study of social impacts of their proposal.

On 14th June 2011, the legal representatives of Woolworths wrote to TEPCP advising that they had now lodged an application for a liquor licence at the site of the withdrawn DA 11/2011. **See Attachment 2.** Quite clearly, Woolworths does not intend to abandon their plans to establish a BWS liquor outlet on the subject site in Long Jetty. As a consequence we see some urgency in Council considering adopting a policy of requiring a NDRA study of the social impacts of all liquor outlet proposals.

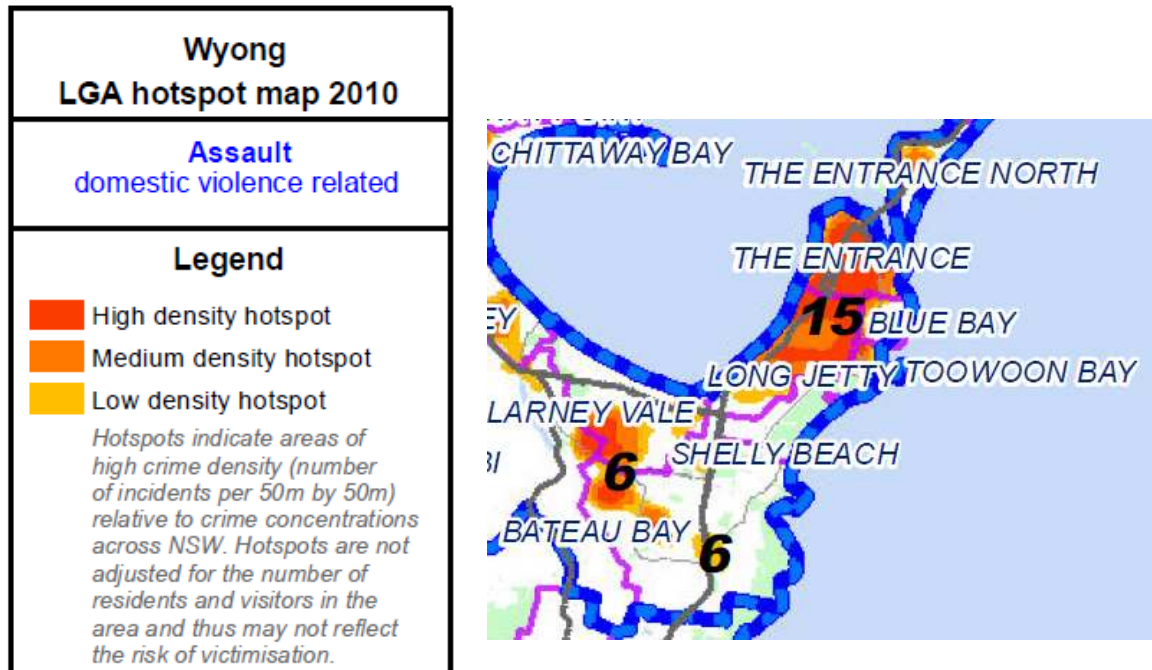
On 17th May, 2011, Shoalhaven Council, pursuant to Section 81 of the Act, advised Woolworths that their application for a Dan Murphy Liquor Outlet had been determined by REFUSAL. The first ground of refusal they stated was:

1. Pursuant to Section 79C(1)(b) Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979 the proposed development will have an unacceptable social impact;
See Attachments 3 and 4.

TEPCP has had overwhelming community support for its campaign opposing the addition of new liquor outlets in our Precinct. The community suffers in two ways:

- There are the direct victims of alcohol assaults and domestic violence, and

- There are those in the community who are the victims of alcohol related crime. Furthermore, the police response is far too late, if at all, due to their priority of attending scenes of domestic violence, that are in many cases alcohol related.



TEPCP would also like to draw your attention to the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research site:

http://www.bocsar.nsw.gov.au/Lawlink/bocsar/ll_bocsar.nsf/pages/bocsar_lga_Wyong

Follow the links to the Hot Spots Map and Report.

The map and report demonstrate that Long Jetty and The Entrance are Hot Spots for Assault Domestic Violence Related. This shocking statistic shows the percentage of incidents in the LGA located in the hotspot. **15%** of incidents in The Entrance are assaults related to Domestic Violence.

A study was funded by the National Drug Law Enforcement Research Fund (NDLERF) See **Attachment 5**. It showed there is a correlation between the level of wholesale purchases of regular strength beer and indicators of harm which varies according to licence type. For example, hotels/taverns and liquor stores had consistently strong associations across all alcohol-related harm indicators. Club licences and restaurants had a moderate association with alcohol-related harms. Nightclub and other types of alcohol licences had moderate to weak associations between wholesale regular strength beer sales and alcohol-related harms. In some of the regions, however, demographic and socio-economic characteristics appeared to be more predictive of assaults than was volume of beer sales. The demographic and socio-economic characteristics of Long Jetty and The Entrance, with their higher than average dependency on social welfare makes the selling of cheap alcohol even more socially reprehensible.

Woolworths, is proposing a Beer Wine and Spirits (BWS) store in Long Jetty. These stores specialise in selling discounted beer. The research shows that the volume of sales of full strength beer provided the strongest and most consistent associations with alcohol-related harm. Clearly with 5 alcohol outlets already in the area, the addition of another is believed to exacerbate existing alcohol related issues.

The need for Wyong Shire Council to adopt a policy that helps the community deal with the problem of alcohol-related violence in our community is real and has been clearly demonstrated. The social impact of an increase in the number of liquor outlets is proven. TEPCP believes Wyong Shire Council now has a clear duty to adopt a policy that helps address this problem.

RECOMMENDATION

TEPCP recommends that Wyong Shire Council adopts a policy of requiring applicants wishing to establish a new liquor outlet in Wyong Shire, to commission a social impact study prior to lodgement of their development application. Such studies need to examine the effect of the additional liquor outlet on the amount and severity of alcohol-related violence and assaults in the surrounding area.

Due to the overwhelming evidence of there being a proven link between an increase in the number of liquor outlets and an increase in the alcohol-related violence and assaults in the surrounding area, The Entrance Peninsula Community Precinct requests that you give our recommendation, as a matter of the utmost urgency, serious consideration.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Yours Sincerely



Douglas Darlington

Secretary

The Entrance Community Precinct Committee

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cc'd Wyong Shire Councillors.

Mr George Souris, MP

Minister for Hospitality and Racing.

Chris Hartcher, MP

Minister for The Central Coast

Chris Spence MP

Member for The Entrance

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 2011 01 20 LETTER TO WSC RE DA 11 2011 LIQUOR RETAIL OUTLET.pdf
2. 2011 06 14 LETTER FROM BVS RE APPLICATION FOR LIQUOR LICENCE IN LONG JETTY.pdf
3. 2011 05 02_Council report raises issues on Dan Murphy's proposal.pdf
4. 2011 05 17 SHOLAHAVEN CUNCIL'S REFUSAL OF DAN MURPHY LIQUOR STORE.pdf
5. 2008 04 15 PREDICTING ALCOHOL-RELATING HARMS FROM LICENCED OUTLET DENSITY A FEASIBILITY STUDY.pdf