

5. Policy Principles

The following principles will be followed in the DLA's administration of liquor licensing:

(i) Meeting the purpose of the Act

The object of the Sale of Liquor Act 1989 is to establish a reasonable system of control over the sale and supply of liquor to the public with the aim of contributing to the reduction of liquor abuse.

Principle: All Council actions will be consistent with the Sale of Liquor Act 1989.

(ii) Transparency

It is considered important that the DLA's position on liquor licensing is clearly outlined in the policy. This will allow the public and applicants to clearly see how applications are evaluated and how (using the assessment criteria) decisions are made.

Principle: All decisions will be made in line with the Sale of Liquor Act 1989 and amendments, this policy and any related procedures.

(iii) Community involvement

The policy describes what opportunities are available for public participation in the DLA's decision-making process. This is partly through consultation on the policy itself but mainly through the public notification and objection process.

Principle: The DLA will endeavour to address community concerns and issues where this is consistent with the purpose of the legislation.

(iv) Fairness

Principle: The DLA will promote a balance between the expectations of the wider community, owners, management and users of licensed premises.

Principle: The application of this policy is not intended to restrict or reduce existing licence conditions, except where explicitly stated.

Note: While the policy will not be applied retrospectively it should be noted that a change in licensee details or monitoring and enforcement action may result in reductions in licence conditions.

(v) Conflict resolution

The sale of liquor is clearly an issue for potential conflict. Parties to this potential conflict include commercial operators, local residents, customers/patrons and social services. All parties have both rights and obligations.

Principle: The DLA will make all reasonable attempts to resolve issues or points of conflict before recourse to legal measures.