

Objections to Liquor Licence Applications

Applicants for a liquor licensing application must display a public notice on the proposed premises informing the public of the details of the application. Objections may be made within 30 days of the date the public notice was first displayed.

A person who makes an objection must give reasons why the grant of the application would detract from, or be detrimental to, the amenity of the area in which the licensed premises or proposed licensed premises area situated. An objector must also show how he/she is affected by the application.

Amenity definition

What is amenity?

For the purposes of the *Liquor Control Reform Act 1998*, the amenity of an area is the quality that the area has of being pleasant and agreeable.

Factors that may be taken into account in determining whether the grant, variation or relocation of a licence would detract from or be detrimental to the amenity of an area include:

- the presence or absence of parking facilities;
- traffic movement and density;
- noise levels;
- the possibility of nuisance or vandalism;
- the harmony and coherence of the environment;
- any other prescribed matters.

The Act provides that none of the following is a valid reason for an objection:

- that the business carried on under the licence would or would not be successful;
- that the business of another licensee or permittee may be adversely affected by the grant, variation or relocation; and/or
- that there is insufficient need or demand to justify the grant, variation or relocation.

The Director of Liquor Licensing may refuse to accept an objection if he/she considers that:

- the person making the objection is not affected by the application;
- the objection is frivolous or vexatious; or
- the objection is not in accordance with the Act.

Additional ground for objecting to the grant, variation or relocation of a packaged liquor licence application.

Any person may object to the grant of this application on the ground that:

- it would detract from, or be detrimental to, the amenity of the area in which the premises are situated, and/or
- it would be conducive to or encourage the misuse or abuse of alcohol.

Please note: All objections are treated as public documents with full details of the objection being provided to the applicant.

Objections are to be sent to:

Director of Liquor Licensing

GPO Box 4304

Melbourne Vic 3001 or email address: liquor@justice.vic.gov.au.

Liquor Licensing Panel (Hearing)

The Director will refer eligible objections to the Liquor Licensing Panel. Applicants and objectors will be offered the opportunity to present their case to the Panel at a public hearing. The Panel will provide a recommendation to the Director who will determine the application after giving full consideration to the Panel's recommendation(s).