

# NSW Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority

Mr Jamie Canellis Licensee, Australian Hotel	AHY OPERATIONS PTY LTD Business Owner, Australian Hotel
AHY HOLDINGS PTY LTD Premises Owner, Australian Hotel	Liquor & Gaming NSW
Hilltops Council	NSW Police

**10 November 2025**

Dear Sir/Madam

Reference No.	DOC25/424490
Licensee	Mr Jamie Canellis
Licence Name	Australian Hotel
Licence Number	LIQH400122721
Licence Type	Liquor – hotel licence
Premises	Boorowa St Young NSW 2594
Legislation	Part 9A of the <i>Liquor Act 2007</i>

## **Decision on remedial action for demerit points accumulated – Mr Jamie Canellis, licensee of Australian Hotel, Young (LIQH400122721)**

On 9 September 2025, the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority (the **Authority**) notified you of the remedial action it proposed to take for the demerit points accumulated by Mr Jamie Canellis, the licensee of Australian Hotel, Young, (the **Hotel**) under the *Liquor Act 2007* (the **Act**).

### **Our decision**

On 10 November 2025, following consideration of submissions received in response to the notification, we decided to take the following remedial action:

- **require** Mr Canellis to undergo advanced licensee training by **12 January 2026**.
- **impose** a RSA Training condition on the Hotel's licence in accordance with section 144T of the Act, to read as follows:

*'The Licensee and all staff, excluding staff who have completed RSA training since the prescribed offence occurred on 2 May 2025, to undertake a refresher responsible service of alcohol (RSA) training course conducted by an approved Registered Training Organisation (RTO) by 12 January 2026.'*

These conditions are also set out in **Schedule 1** of this Decision.

## Statement of reasons

### Background

On 7 August 2025, Liquor & Gaming NSW (**L&GNSW**) notified us that Mr Canellis, the licensee, had accumulated a total of two demerit points under Part 9A of the Liquor Act 2007.

Mr Canellis accumulated two demerit points following the issue and enforcement of a penalty notice for the category 2 demerit offence, *'licensee allow liquor to be sold or supplied to minor'* under section 117(8) of the Act on 13 June 2025.

In addition to the notification, L&GNSW provided a submission recommending that we take remedial action in response to the accumulation of demerit points.

On 9 September 2025, we notified you and all relevant parties as required under section 144Z(1) of the Act, that we proposed to take remedial action in response to the accumulation of demerit points and invited submissions in response.

### Submissions

Submissions were received from L&GNSW, Police and Kent McRae Lawyers acting for Mr Canellis. We did not receive a submission from Council. We have considered the submissions, which are detailed below.

L&GNSW, dated 12 September 2025:

- L&GNSW noted their support of the proposed remedial action in light of the serious nature of the offence.

Police, dated 15 October 2025:

- Police acknowledged that Mr Canellis had demonstrated cooperation with Police and a proactive approach to compliance since the incident. Police stated they are satisfied with the improvements made to date at the Hotel, including increased identification checks for young patrons, increased security presence on Friday and Saturday nights, increased presence of RSA marshal and RCG-trained staff in the gaming room, and a demonstrated commitment from Mr Canellis in preventing further breaches. Police supported the proposed remedial action, however suggested that to further ensure compliance, the Authority should consider imposing a condition requiring a minimum of two licensed security personnel on Friday and Saturday nights to manage entry, prevent underage access and ensure patron safety. If increased security staffing is not feasible, Police suggested an alternative condition be imposed requiring the Hotel to implement an electronic sign-in register for all patrons entering the premises, and staff monitoring to ensure compliance.

Kent McRae Lawyers acting for Mr Canellis, licensee, dated 24 October 2025:

- The legal representative acting for Mr Canellis, stated that Mr Canellis does not object to the proposed remedial action, and notes that Mr Canellis has undertaken Advanced Licensee training and is awaiting his certificate of completion. The legal representative notes that on the night of the offence, underage patrons were found in the gaming room by staff and when they were unable to provide proof of age, they were removed from the Hotel immediately. Further, the minors who were observed consuming alcohol were not served alcohol by Hotel staff but were supplied with alcohol by other patrons. Several strategies for managing safety and security of the Hotel were noted, including engaging additional staff and security personnel when increased patron numbers are anticipated, a Hotel policy of banning any underage person who unlawfully consumes alcohol on the Hotel premises for six months from the date of their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, engaging meaningfully with Police, and reinforcing compliance expectations with Hotel staff.

The legal representative stated that Mr Canellis has worked at and managed licensed premises for over 25 years and this is his first incident involving remedial action to date.

Further, it was noted that the venue does not trade past midnight on any night, in accordance

with the Hotel liquor license, and the licensee is of the opinion that imposing a security condition for Friday and Saturday nights – as proposed by Police in their submission – would be excessive and punitive to the licensee as it would require sourcing staff from Wagga Wagga (approximately 2 hours travel from Young).

### Considerations under section 144ZA of the Act

We have also considered the relevant factors identified in section 144ZA of the Act, and note in the original submission from L&GNSW dated 7 August 2025 that:

- there is no material to indicate that the size and patron capacity of the licensed premises impacted the licensee's ability to prevent the commission of the demerit offence.
- a November 2023 complaint alleged that Mr Canellis had been involved in a physical altercation with a patron. Further, Police attended the Hotel, which resulted in a patron being tasered. Due to contact and access issues with Police, CCTV footage was only obtained months later and was not within the timeframe specified in the section 21 notice. The absence of CCTV footage from the relevant period rendered further investigation into the allegations non-viable and no further action was taken.
- it does not appear that other action outside the remedial action as set out in the original L&GNSW notification is preferable, being a condition requiring Mr Canellis to undergo advanced licensee training and a RSA training condition requiring all relevant staff to undertake refresher RSA training.
- Mr Canellis has been the licensee of the Hotel since 27 September 2016.
- there had been no relevant changes to the business practices carried under the licence at the time of the application.

### Our findings

We are satisfied that:

- two demerit points have been accumulated by the licensee in a three-year period.
- the licensee breached section 117(8) of the Act '*licensee allow liquor to be sold or supplied to minor*'.

Having considered the available material, we find that the licensee failed to comply with his obligations under the Act to ensure that liquor is not sold or supplied to persons under the age of 18.

We consider the offence to be serious and warrant an enforceable regulatory response by way of remedial action, to prevent any similar occurrence in future. Remedial action taken by the Authority is set out under the heading 'Our decision' of this document, as well as at **Schedule 1**.

### The material we considered

We considered all the material we received about the matter, including:

- notification of the accumulation of demerit points from L&GNSW, dated 7 August 2025.
- submission from L&GNSW, dated 12 September 2025.
- submission from Police, dated 15 October 2025.
- submission from legal representative acting for the licensee, dated 24 September 2025.

### If you are dissatisfied with this decision

If a person who is notified of the decision is dissatisfied with this decision, they may apply to NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT) for a review.

An application for review must be made no later 21 days after being notified of the decision.

For more information, please contact the NCAT Registry at Level 10 John Maddison Tower, 86-90 Goulburn Street Sydney or visit the NCAT website.

This decision will be published on our website.

**If you have any questions**

Please contact the Office of ILGA at [office@ilga.nsw.gov.au](mailto:office@ilga.nsw.gov.au) if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Loy', with a long, sweeping flourish extending upwards and to the right.

Jeff Loy  
**Chair, Disciplinary Matters Committee**  
**NSW Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority**

**Schedule 1 – Licence conditions to be imposed**  
**Australian Hotel, Young (LIQH400122721)**

No.	Condition to be imposed	Description
1.	Advanced Licensee Training	Mr Canellis to undergo advanced licensee training by 12 January 2026.
2.	RSA Training	The Licensee and all staff, excluding staff who have completed RSA training since the prescribed offence occurred on 2 May 2025, to undertake a refresher responsible service of alcohol (RSA) training course conducted by an approved Registered Training Organisation (RTO) by 12 January 2026.