

NSW Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority

Our ref: DF26/036363

Mr John Elsley

7 August 2026

Dear Mr Elsley

Application No.	1-9780915178
Applicant	THE SHERWOOD HOTEL PTY LTD
Application for	Change of licence conditions
Application date	9 April 2026
Decision date	15 July 2026
Licence name	The Sherwood Hotel
Licence No.	LIQH440019031
Trading hours	<u>Consumption on premises</u> Monday to Saturday 10:00 AM – 12:00 AM Sunday 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM <u>Take away</u> Monday to Saturday 10:00 AM – 12:00 AM Sunday 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
Premises	75 Molesworth Street Lismore NSW 2480
Legislation	Sections 3 and 47B of the <i>Liquor Act 2007</i>

Decision of the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority Application for a change of licence conditions – The Sherwood Hotel

We **refuse** the application above under section 47B of the *Liquor Act 2007* (the **Act**).

Statement of reasons

We are concerned that approving the application will be inconsistent with the objects of the Act.

Our main findings

The local community for the purposes of this decision comprises the Statistical Areas Level 2 (**SA2**) and suburb of Lismore. The broader community is the State Local Government Area (**LGA**) of Lismore.

The applicant sought approval to revoke a licence condition prohibiting gaming machines, TAB and Keno facilities at the Sherwood Hotel imposed by the Authority with the agreement of the licensee when the licence was granted in 2021.

The applicant submitted that the condition limits the venue's competitiveness and financial viability, particularly following the impacts of the 2022 Lismore floods, and argued that revocation would make the hotel competitive with nearby venues offering gaming and wagering services.

Despite having sympathy for the reasons underlying the application, we considered the potential impact of approval on the community, particularly the likelihood that a future gaming machine threshold (**GMT**) application would follow if the condition were removed. We are concerned that the venue is in a Band 3 (high risk) SA2 area, that existing gaming venues are nearby and that the gambling prevalence and participation in the local health district (**LHD**) is already higher than the state average.

Notwithstanding that the introduction of gambling would require separate Authority approval, we were not satisfied that removing the condition would be in the public interest because it is very likely to precede an application for a GMT increase, and therefore we refuse the application.

Social impacts

We considered that the proposal could contribute to an increase in harm in the local and broader communities because of the:

- venue being in a high-density crime hotspot for non-domestic assault, malicious damage to property and alcohol-related assault
- incidence of all offences examined is higher in the suburb and LGA than the rate for NSW¹
- higher saturation of full hotel licences and total outlet density in the suburb and LGA than the rate for NSW²³
- Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (**SEIFA**) data, which combines Census data such as income, education, employment, occupation, housing and family structure to summarise the socio-economic characteristics of an area, indicating that the suburb exhibits a below-average level of socio-economic status compared with other communities across New South Wales⁴

¹ High levels of hotel and packaged liquor outlet density have been shown to be positively associated with higher rates of domestic and non-domestic assault rates (Donnelly et al., 2023).

² High levels of hotel outlet-density, and highly concentrated clusters of hotels in an area, have been shown to be positively associated with higher rates of alcohol-related non-domestic assault (Livingston, 2008a, 2008b; Jiang et al., 2023).

³ High levels of outlet-density have been shown to be positively associated with higher levels of alcohol-related harm, including alcohol-related domestic and non-domestic assaults (Livingston et al., 2016; Jiang et al., 2023).

⁴ Research shows that the association between liquor outlet density and assaults is stronger in areas with higher percentages of ATSI and in areas with lower socio-economic status (Association of liquor outlet density with domestic and non-domestic assault in New South Wales; Jiang, H., Riordan, B., Laslett, A-M., Livingston, M., Lee, K., James, D., Stearne, A., & Room, R. (2023)).

- rates of alcohol-attributable hospitalisations and deaths are higher in the LGA than in NSW
- a relatively large proportion of potentially vulnerable residents, namely single people, individuals with lower levels of education, and those who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (**ATSI**) in both the suburb and the LGA⁵
- venue is in a Band 3 SA2 indicating higher overall levels of disadvantage are present within the SA2
- percentage of moderate and high-risk gamblers in the LHD is higher than that for NSW
- gambling participation rate for pokies/gaming machines in the LHD is higher than the state average (18.2% compared with 14.3%), as is the overall gambling participation rate (56.7% compared with 53.5%).

We considered one public objection, which submitted that revoking the condition could worsen existing community issues and was unnecessary given the availability of nearby gambling facilities.

We also considered the applicant's response that the objection was not supported by venue-specific evidence and that revoking the condition would not increase gaming availability but would allow the hotel to compete with nearby venues while maintaining its family-friendly focus.

We considered that the factors below may have mitigated some of the risks identified above:

- no objections were received from government agencies
- the venue currently has standard trading hours with no potential for gaming during the higher risk post 12am period.

Nevertheless, on balance we considered that the risk of increased gambling harm from removing the condition outweighed these mitigating factors

The material we considered

We considered the following material when making our decision:

- the application material — including evidence that stakeholders and the community were notified about the application
- the legislation
- the certificate of advertising
- the plan of the licensed premises and any authorisations
- the plan of management for the licensed business
- the development consent for the premises
- the harm minimisation and community impact data report
- statistics from Liquor & Gaming NSW, Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, NSW Health and Australian Bureau of Statistics on the socio-economic status, liquor licence density, alcohol-related crimes rates and health issues in the local and broader communities
- L&GNSW compliance materials
- stakeholder submissions and the applicant's response to them.

This decision will be published.

If you have any questions

Please contact Liquor & Gaming NSW at: new.applications@liquorandgaming.nsw.gov.au if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely



Caroline Lamb

Chairperson

NSW Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority