

Date: 20 May 2010
Contact: Jenita King
Location: Surfers Paradise
Telephone: (07) 5581 6457
Your reference: 41613
Our reference: CS431/310/16

ABN 84858548460
PO Box 5042 Gold Coast MC
Qld 9729 Australia
Email: gccmail@goldcoast.qld.gov.au
Web: goldcoastcity.com.au
Administration Centres
Ph: +61 7 5582 8211
135 Bundall Road Surfers Paradise
Fax: +61 7 5581 6346
833 Southport Nerang Road Nerang
Fax: +61 7 5596 3653

Darrell Channing
Director
Adjudication Branch
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
GPO Box 3131
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Mr Channing

**OFFICE OF LIQUOR, GAMING AND REGULATION APPLICATION FOR
AUTHORISATION – INTERESTED PARTY SUBMISSION**

Thank you for your letter received 30 April 2010, regarding the application for authorisation from the State Government's Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing for a pro-forma liquor accord agreement.

As the second largest local government in Australia and with Surfers Paradise having the greatest concentration of licensed venues in Queensland, Gold Coast City Council has a strong interest in addressing alcohol related harms and reducing violence in the community. Currently, alcohol related issues, such as violence and vandalism, are resulting in significant negative impacts on the local community which are both social and financial.

The establishment and operation of liquor accord groups are an effective method to assist in reducing the risk of alcohol related harms. Council officers support the Gold Coast Liquor Accord (LICA) group and on several occasions have partnered with them to implement harm minimisation initiatives. With liquor accord groups being voluntary, industry-based partnerships, they are well placed to work within local communities to identify and implement practical solutions to alcohol-related harms.

Council supports the application from the Office of Liquor, Gaming and Regulation (OLGR) to establish standardised liquor accords. It is suggested that this will assist accord partnerships to monitor their effectiveness and coordinate more closely with other accords in Queensland. The streamlined process and guidelines will make it easier for accord groups and give confidence to participants to refuse to incorporate promotions that encourage binge drinking and other harmful drinking practices.

Thank you for providing Council with the opportunity to comment.

Yours faithfully,


Cathie Culverhouse
MANAGER SOCIAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT BRANCH