



HON WILL HODGMAN MP
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

16 March 2010

Mr Steve Old
General Manager
Tasmanian Hospitality Association
PO Box 191
BATTERY POINT TAS 7004


Dear Mr Old

I refer to a request from your office today about the approach a Hodgman Liberal Government would take on concerns by the Tasmanian Hospitality Association about certain provisions of the Liquor Licensing Act 1990 and how they are applied by the Licensing Board.

You have asked about three matters – the application of the “best interests of the community” test by the Board and the extent of community involvement in that process; the composition of the Licensing Board; and the sale of liquor in supermarkets.

I note that your executive raised these matters with me directly during our meeting late last year.

Best interests of the community test

I acknowledge that your Association has made representations about better community notification by the Board of applications for the grants of licences from such groups in a community as the police, local schools and the Local Government council of the area.

I think your points are well made and a Hodgman Liberal Government would, in consultation with the Board, with your Association and with other interested parties, make more explicit the duties of the Board when considering licence applications to include notification of such interested third parties.

Composition of the Licensing Board

Your Association has suggested that the composition of the Board be altered to include representatives of the police, health sector and Local Government. In principle, provided the regulations relating to the community consultation process which is undertaken by the
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Board as it considers licence applications is widened, we have no plan that these sectors be explicitly represented on the Licensing Board, but I am certainly prepared to consider this further in the context of consultation with your Association about the best interests of the community test.

Sale of alcohol in supermarkets

We do not believe supermarkets should be allowed to sell alcohol, and I do not see that policy position changing.

In closing, I reiterate that a Hodgman Liberal Government will include a Minister for Hospitality to ensure that the contribution that your Association's sector makes to the economic and social life of the State is properly recognised, and to acknowledge the large number of local jobs the Hospitality industry provides, both directly and indirectly.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Will Hodgman', written in a cursive style.

WILL HODGMAN MP
Leader of the Opposition