

Public Interest Assessment – Outlet Density (Liquor Control Act 1988 (WA), ss 36B and 36B(4))

Existing Packaged Liquor Premises within the Locality

The proposed premises for, Eneabba Community Store Pty Ltd, are located within the township of Eneabba, Western Australia. There are currently three other liquor licences within the locality; however, these licences provide either limited or no access to packaged liquor for the general public.

The Whereaway Tavern

The Whereaway Tavern is authorised to sell packaged liquor over the bar. While this provides some access to takeaway liquor, the range of products is limited compared with a dedicated liquor store, and packaged liquor is generally sold at significantly higher prices than those typically available from a retail liquor outlet.

The Tavern's primary business is the sale and consumption of liquor on the premises rather than the provision of packaged liquor to the community.

Eneabba Recreational & Sporting Club Inc.

The Eneabba Recreational & Sporting Club Inc. is not authorised to sell packaged liquor for consumption on or off the premises. The Club currently operates only for private functions and therefore does not provide a regular retail liquor service to the public.

Ngulya Village

Ngulya Village is a mining camp located 3.8km Eneabba. Cater Care holds a liquor licence for the supply of liquor to authorised persons within the camp. The licence does not permit the sale of liquor to the general public, and liquor sales are restricted to mine camp residents and authorised personnel. Consequently, this licence does not contribute to the availability of packaged liquor within the wider Eneabba community.

Assessment of Outlet Density

While there are three licensed premises within the locality, only one offers any packaged liquor sales to the public, and that service is ancillary to its primary tavern operations. The remaining two licences do not provide takeaway liquor to members of the public and therefore do not increase the effective availability of packaged liquor within the locality.

Accordingly, the number of premises genuinely supplying packaged liquor to the general public in Eneabba is extremely limited. The proposed liquor store, Eneabba Community Store Pty Ltd, would therefore not result in an excessive concentration of packaged liquor outlets but would instead provide the community with its first dedicated retail liquor outlet.

Public Interest Considerations

The proposed liquor store, Eneabba Community Store Pty Ltd, will improve convenience and consumer choice by providing residents and visitors with access to a broader range of packaged liquor products at competitive retail prices. At present, residents have limited options and may be required to purchase packaged liquor from the Tavern at premium prices or travel considerable distances to larger regional centres. The closest Liquor store to Eneabba is situated in Leeman, which is 35kms away.

The proposal is intended to complement, rather than compete with, the existing licensed premises. The Whereaway Tavern will continue to provide hospitality, dining and on-premises liquor services, while the Eneabba Recreational & Sporting Club Inc. and Ngulya Village serve distinct and restricted functions.

The establishment of a dedicated liquor store will improve the level of retail service available to the community without materially increasing alcohol-related harm. The proposal represents an appropriate response to the existing lack of public access to packaged liquor within Eneabba and is consistent with the objects of the *Liquor Control Act 1988*, balancing the requirements of consumers with the need to minimise harm.