

Wyong
Shire
Council
CENTRAL COAST

EG:EG/Mrs Emily Goodworth
F2004/07052
D02773754

2 November 2011

Inquiry into Australian Retail Industry
Productivity Commission
GPO Box 1428
CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601

ATTENTION: Maggie Eibisch

Dear Ms Eibisch

**THE AUSTRALASIAN ASSOCIATION OF CONVENIENCE STORES (AACS) SUBMISSION -
ENQUIRY INTO THE AUSTRALIAN RETAIL INDUSTRY**

I am writing in relation to the Australasian Association of Convenience Stores (AACS) Submission to the Inquiry into the Australian Retail Industry dated 26 August 2011.

Council at its meeting held on 12 October 2011, resolved in part:

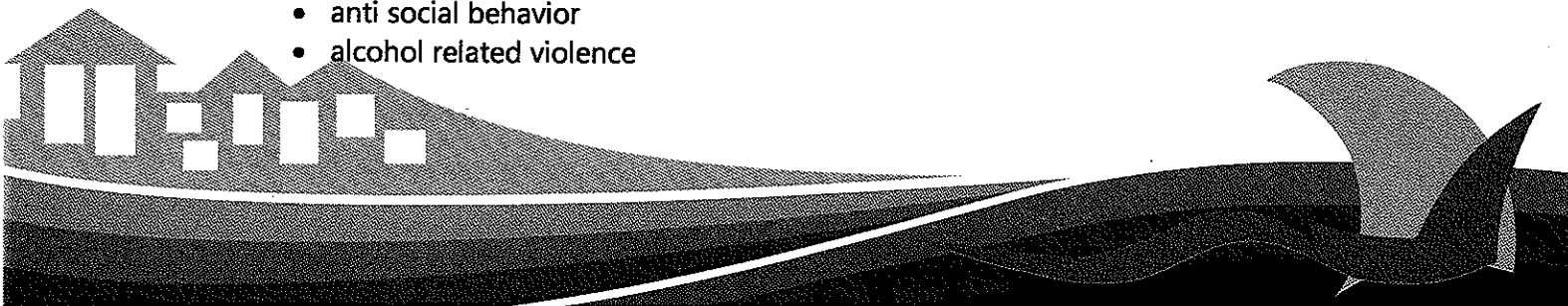
"That Council reject the further proliferation of alcohol availabilities through the recent push by the Australian Association of Convenience Stores to sell alcohol in local petrol stations.

That Council make formal representation on behalf of its residents and ratepayers to the current Productivity Commission's Inquiry into the industry's proposal with the grounds for objection to include but not limited to:

- *the escalation of binge drinking*
- *anti social behavior*
- *alcohol related violence*
- *hospitalizations*
- *consumptions of police and custodial resources"*

You are requested to give due consideration to Council's strong objection to the further proliferation of alcohol availability through convenience stores. Council's submission also raises concerns in relation to the negative effects the sale of alcohol through convenience stores would have on the community having regard to the following:

- the escalation of binge drinking
- anti social behavior
- alcohol related violence



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The Australasian Association of Convenience Stores Submission

- the increase in the number of persons hospitalized due to an increase in alcohol-related incidences
- consumption of police and custodial resources
- potential increase in the level of alcohol related disease
- increased evidence that the level of alcohol consumption and related harms are a function of both demand and supply (availability)

If the proposal by the AACS is supported by the Productivity Commission, Wyong Shire Council would recommend that any approval for the sale of alcohol in convenience stores should be accompanied by appropriate restrictions as a means of regulating consumption. Such restrictions should include a limitation on trading hours and outlet densities.

Yours faithfully

Peter Fryar
Manager
DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT