

GREG PETTY - Independent Candidate for Heathcote



MEDIA RELEASE

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Independent Heathcote Candidate Greg Petty reports Big Liquor Store not proceeding in Helensburgh

Greg Petty receives official advice Supermarket giant stops application after Independent Candidate for Heathcote joins stoush

Supermarket giant Woolworths and its liquor group BWS has been progressing an application for a packaged liquor outlet in the small northern Illawarra town of Helensburgh, home to just 5,500 residents.

Local businesses, community groups and residents mounted a campaign to stop BWS's Development Application to Wollongong City Council. A petition containing some 1,000 signatures and other individual submissions were passed over by Council allowing BSW to submit its "Community Impact Statement" to the NSW Casino, Liquor & Gaming Control Authority.

The BSW application stated it would create 3 full time and 5 part time positions when the town was already serviced by a Hotel, 2 liquor stores, a licensed club and at least 2 sporting club licences. Less than 5 kms away is an outlet at Stanwell Park with further liquor shops at Engadine including a Woolworths Liquor.

Independent Candidate for Heathcote, Greg Petty, after hearing concerns at a meeting of small business owners, approached Ronda Collins, owner of the Helensburgh Centennial Hotel, to offer assistance.

Mr. Petty wrote to the BWS Solicitors seeking an extension of the December 20 submission deadline. Back Schwartz Vaughan (BSV) was invited to attend the Neighbourhood Forum meeting in February and requested to attend a Public Meeting to be convened by Mr. Petty for February 13 to hear local business, community groups and residents concerns. Both requests were initially denied although an extension to January 7 was granted for further submissions.

Local liquor shops over the Christmas period were collecting signed submissions prepared by Mr. Petty ready to be submitted for the January 7 deadline.

BWS Solicitors BSV Associate, Brett Tobin, wrote to the Independent Candidate for Heathcote today advising "our client has confirmed that the application for the grant of the liquor licence at Helensburgh is no longer being proceeded with".

Mr. Petty stated "This is a great example of community empowerment and the community working together".

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