



Mr Elie Azzi  
Licensee  
The Cats Meow Sydney  
52-54 Oxford Street  
DARLINGHURST NSW 2010

And by email: [elie@istylephotography.com.au](mailto:elie@istylephotography.com.au)

2 July 2022

Dear Mr Azzi

**Notice of Short-Term Closure Order under section 82 of the *Liquor Act 2007*  
The Cats Meow Sydney (Premises) LIQS220000170**

**SUMMARY OF DECISION**

1. Pursuant to section 82(1) of the *Liquor Act 2007* (Act), the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority (Authority) orders that the licensed premises currently trading as “The Cats Meow Sydney”, located at 52-54 Oxford Street Darlinghurst (Premises) close for a period of 24 hours from **8:45 pm on Saturday 2 July 2022** until **8:45 pm on Sunday 3 July 2022**.

**INTRODUCTION**

2. At 6:29 pm on 2 July 2022, the Authority received an application (Application) from Sergeant Andrew Sweiger, Region Licensing Coordinator Central Metropolitan Region (Applicant) in his capacity as a delegate of the Commissioner of the New South Wales Police Force (Police). The Application was made under section 82 of the Act and seeks the issue of a Short-Term Closure Order in relation to the Premises, pursuant to subsections (3)(a) and (3)(d) – circumstances in which there may be a significant threat or risk to the public interest, including circumstances in which there is a threat to public health or safety, and a risk of serious offences (having a maximum penalty of not less than two years imprisonment) being committed on the premises.

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION**

3. At 7:16 pm on 2 July 2022, a copy of a Notice of Application for Short-Term Closure Order (Notice) was emailed to you, Mr Elie Azzi (Licensee). The Application material was included with the Notice.
4. You were invited to provide the Authority with any written submissions or evidence in response to the Application by no later than 8:15 pm on 2 July 2022.

**SUBMISSIONS IN RESPONSE TO THE APPLICATION**

5. At 8:07 pm on 2 July 2022, Police contacted Rochelle Hurst, Director Office of ILGA to advise that the manager of the Premises had verbally confirmed to Police, upon receipt of the hand delivered Notice, and on your behalf, that no submission would be lodged in response to the Notice.

6. The Authority accepts the suggestion made by Police that the following measures would assist in mitigating the risks associated with the ongoing operation of the Premises:
- Dedicated RSA staff
  - Licensed security located at the entrance to the licensed premises
  - Increased security personnel
  - Appointment of a new security provider and relevant staff training
  - Updated Plan of Management (PoM)
  - Implementation of a 'Drug Policy'
  - Training of staff on the revised PoM and Drug Policy
  - Introduction of CCTV system requirements and operations
  - Imposition of a Crime Scene Preservation condition
  - Requirement of recording incidents during operational hours.
7. **It is the Authority's expectation that you and Police meet in the coming days to discuss the concerns raised by Police and to potentially agree on mitigation measures (including proposed conditions that ought to be imposed on the licence).** The Authority will therefore not take any course of action in this respect unless a subsequent application is made by Police under section 53 of the Act.

## REASONS FOR DECISION

8. The Authority is satisfied, on the material before it and on the balance of probabilities, that serious breaches of section 73(1)(a) and (b) of the Act, which prohibits a licensee from permitting intoxication, the use of prohibited drugs, or any indecent, violent, or quarrelsome conduct, have occurred at the Premises (most recently on 24 February 2022) and, specifically, are highly likely to occur on the evening of 2 July 2022.
9. The Authority has taken into consideration the Statement of Particulars provided as part of the Application and has formed the view that there is a substantial risk to public health and safety, given the ongoing issues of intoxication, drug use and violence on the Premises due to inadequate controls being in place regarding the sale and supply of liquor.
10. The Authority has formed the view that there is a continued risk of serious offences being committed on the Premises and a very real threat to public safety, particularly during the evening of 2 July 2022, should the Premises remain open.
11. On this basis, the Authority is satisfied that it is necessary to close the Premises for a period of 24 hours commencing this evening to prevent or reduce a significant threat or risk to the public interest, being a risk to public health and safety and a risk of serious offences being committed on the Premises.

## ORDER

12. Pursuant to section 82(1) of the Act, the Authority orders that the licensed premises currently trading as The Cats Meow LIQS220000170, located at 52-54 Oxford Street Darlinghurst, close for a period of 24 hours from **8:45 pm on Saturday 2 July 2022** until **8:45 pm on Sunday 3 July 2022**.
13. The Authority notes that section 82(6) of the Act provides that failure to comply with an order made under this section may expose the licensee to a maximum penalty of 50 penalty units, 6 months' imprisonment, or both.

**TIME OF ORDER:** 8:45 PM ON 2 JULY 2022

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P Crawford', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Philip Crawford  
**Chairperson**  
for and on behalf of the **Independent  
Liquor & Gaming Authority**