



Local council liquor licence objection kit

This objection kit has been prepared for Victorian local councils. It contains key information on the objection process for liquor licence applications.

Local councils may object to a liquor licence application if the proposed premises is located in or is being moved to their municipal district.

A local council may object to:

- the grant of a new liquor licence.
- a variation of an existing licence.
- the relocation of an existing licence.

Members of the public and Victoria Police can also make an objection.

Items in this kit

- Guide for lodging objections
- Objection and review process map
- Local council objection form

Need help?

For more information on how to object to a liquor licence application:

- **Website:** liquor.vic.gov.au
- **Email:** contact@liquor.vic.gov.au
- **Telephone:** 1300 182 457

Guide for lodging objections

Applications that are referred to local councils

Liquor Control Victoria (LCV) refers applications to grant, vary or relocate a liquor licence to local councils.

This includes all licence types except pre-retail licences, BYO permits and transfers of a liquor licence.

We may also refer applications for a renewable limited, temporary limited or major event licence to you.

Referrals are sent by email to the council email address provided to us. You are encouraged to confirm that the contact email is correct and notify us via email if any changes are needed.

Impact of planning reform

As of 1 July 2025, a planning permit is no longer required for the sale and consumption of liquor.

This change does not affect LCV's referral process or how we consider objections.

Planning permits and liquor licences often have different conditions. Licensees must comply with both their liquor licence and any applicable planning requirements under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

Objecting to a liquor licence application

Grounds for objection

The local council may object to a liquor licence application on the grounds of:

- **Amenity:** that the licence would detract from, or be detrimental to, the amenity of the area.
- **Harm:** if the application is for a packaged liquor licence, that the licence would be conducive to, or encourage harm, such as anti-social behaviour or risks to vulnerable groups.

Local councils **cannot** object on the basis that:

- the business carried on under the licence would or would not be successful.
- the business of another licensee or permittee would be adversely affected.
- there is insufficient need or demand to justify the grant of the application.
- a planning permit is required, being assessed or is different from the liquor licence application.

How to make an objection

Objections must be:

1. Made in writing - you should use the 'local council objection form' at the back of this guide.
2. Submitted **within 30 days** from the date we email you with the application information.
3. Based on valid grounds (amenity and/or harm based on the application type) - you must provide background information and supporting evidence with your objection.
4. Submitted by email to contact@liquor.vic.gov.au

Local councils should submit only one objection per application. Additional information may be added later if needed.

An objection can be withdrawn at any time by email

All objections are treated as public documents. Full details, including the objector's contact information will be shared with the applicant.

Objections received after the deadline

You have 30 days to lodge an objection from the first date the application is displayed at the premises.

If the deadline has passed, you can request additional time by sending an email to contact@liquor.vic.gov.au

You must include a reason why you need additional time to object. Late objections are considered on a case-by-case basis and may not be accepted.

Information and supporting evidence

When objecting, you must include information or evidence that supports your objection. This is to help us understand why you are objecting to the application.

This might include information such as:

- council data or reports.
- information or reports from Victoria Police.
- resident or local community feedback.

We will use this information to help us assess your objection and the application itself.

Examples of amenity concerns include:

- violent or disorderly behaviour.
- drunkenness or vandalism.
- offensive language or nuisance.
- noise disturbances or littering.
- obstructing a footpath, street or road.

Examples of harm include:

- harm to minors, vulnerable persons or communities.
- family violence.
- anti-social behaviour, including behaviour that causes personal injury or property damage.

Review of a decision

Certain decisions made by LCV can be reviewed.

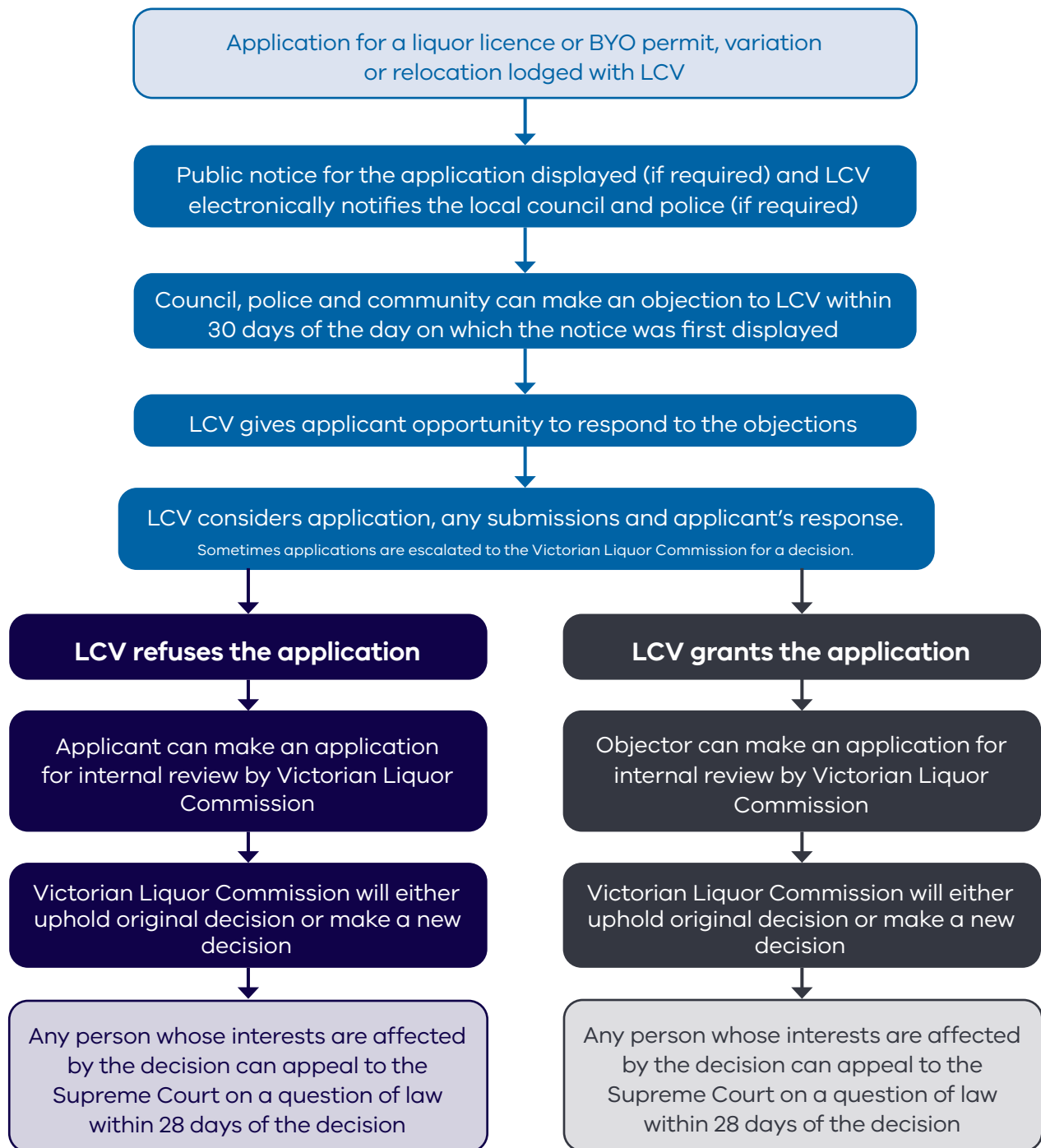
If we grant a licence or application and your objection was accepted, we will provide you with a copy of the reasons for the decision and instructions on how to request an internal review.

Refer to the objection and review process diagram in this guide for further information.

Community objections

For questions about how members of the public can object to a liquor licence application, please direct them to 'Object to a liquor licence application' on liquor.vic.gov.au

Objection and review process map



Local council objection form

Liquor Control Reform Act 1998

About this form

This form can be used by a local council to object to the grant of a new liquor licence, a variation or relocation of an existing licence in accordance with the *Liquor Control Reform Act 1998* (the Act).

A local council doesn't have to use this form, however all objections must be made in writing.

Please note: An objection must be made within 30 days after the day on which the public notice was first displayed on the premises or site to which the licence would apply, if granted.

Objector details

Council name

Email

Postal address

Contact name

Position

Phone

Date of objection

Licence application details

Applicant name

Licence category applied for (i.e. general licence / packaged liquor)

Application number

Additional information relating to licence (if applicable)

Application advertisement or display date

Application type

Grant

Variation

Relocation

Grounds for objection

There are two grounds on which a local council can object to an application to grant, vary or relocate a liquor licence. They are:

- Amenity – that the licence would detract from, or be detrimental to, the amenity of the area.
- Harm – that the licence would be conducive to, or encourage harm

Amenity can be used as a ground for objecting to any category of licence.

Harm can only be used as a ground for objecting to a packaged liquor or late night packaged liquor licence.

Amenity

The Act defines amenity as the quality of being pleasant and agreeable. Factors that may be taken into account in determining whether the grant, variation or relocation of a liquor licence would detract from, or be detrimental to, the amenity of an area include:

- the possibility of nuisance or vandalism
- the harmony and coherence of the environment.

In addition, the Act states that the following is taken to be evidence of detraction from, or detriment to, amenity (see s.3AA):

- violent behaviour
- drunkenness
- vandalism
- using profane, indecent or obscene language
- using threatening, abusive or insulting language
- behaving in a riotous, indecent, offensive or insulting manner
- disorderly behaviour
- causing nuisance
- noise disturbance to occupiers of other premises
- obstructing a footpath, street or road
- littering.

Harm

The Act defines harm as harm arising from the misuse and abuse of alcohol (see s3(1)).

Please note, the following are not valid reasons for an objection under the Act (s41(4)):

- that the business carried on under the licence would or would not be successful
- that the business of another licensee or permittee may be adversely affected by the grant, variation or relocation
- that there is insufficient need or demand to justify the grant, variation or relocation.

Select the ground/s for objecting to this application

- ▶ Amenity
- ▶ Harm (only available for a packaged liquor or late night packaged liquor applications)
- ▶ Both (only available for a packaged liquor or late night packaged liquor application)

Provide detailed information to support the objection. Attach relevant supporting evidence and any other information you would like LCV to consider.

Attachments

List supporting attachments

Attachment A	
Attachment B	
Attachment C	
Attachment D	
Add additional if required	

Further information about grounds for objecting and the evidence that can be used to support an objection is contained in 'Local government liquor licence objection kit' available at liquor.vic.gov.au