

H'burgh liquor store still on the nose

By HEATHER SMITH

THE lawyer handling the application for a packaged liquor licence in the Wattamolla development in Helensburgh has been inundated with objections and met with his client on Tuesday to seek further instruction.

Nathan McEwan of Heard McEwan Legal in Wollongong said he had received "many, many, many" comments from the community about Scalda Pty Ltd's proposal for a liquor store at 20-24 Walker Street.

"There has been a public push against this," he said.

Scalda Pty Ltd is a company associated with Charlie and Josleen Daoud, relatives of developer Nick Daoud who secured development approval from Wollongong City Council late last year for a liquor store at the site.

At the time, liquor giant BWS was scheduled to lease Shops 2 & 3 however community opposition led to a re-think by parent company Woolworths which decided not to go ahead with the plan.

As development consent has already been secured, Scalda needs only to complete a Community Impact Statement to submit its bid to the NSW Casino, Liquor and Gaming Control Authority.

Neighbour notifications were sent out with a closing date of September 12 for comment. In its notice, the Authority says the application cannot be granted unless the Authority is satisfied that "the overall social impact will not be detrimental to the well-being of the local or broader community".

Mayoral candidate Greg Petty, who was involved in blocking the last application, has organised an email

campaign against the proposal through his website (www.gregpetty.com.au) with the last campaign against BWS attracting 1000 signatures.

He said Helensburgh and the surrounding areas were already well-served by liquor outlets, which included three retail stores, the Centennial Hotel, the Worker's Club and sporting organisations, totalling six liquor licences for a population of less than 6000.

"A liquor outlet on every corner is not the message we want to send to the youth of our town," Mr Petty said.

He has convened a public meeting for September 11 to discuss the proposal and has invited Heard McEwan Lawyers to attend.

He has also written to the law firm seeking an extension to the September 12 deadline for comment.

Hatton endorses Petty



HIT team: Greg Petty (right) discusses policies with John Hatton at his South Coast home.

VETERAN anti-corruption fighter and former South Coast MP John Hatton, who featured in Channel 9's Underbelly series, has backed Helensburgh's Greg Petty as Mayor for Wollongong.

Mr Petty, who is standing as an Independent in tomorrow's election, was on the Hatton Independent Team at the last State election.

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GREG PETTY for MAYOR



**For Councillor
Place 1 in Group D above the line**

- No Party politics in local government
- Local Helensburgh resident

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Authorised by Greg Petty PO Box 92 Helensburgh