



Opening a New Store With a Liquor License is More Difficult Than Ever in NSW.

After last week's round of store openings we now have three stores, Corowa, Jindera and East Albury who all have vacant bottle shop departments while they waded through the process in gaining their respective NSW licenses.

Pictured above is the Jindera store, converted to a \$2 shop in the meantime. Roger King says he hopes to gain his license and open the department shortly and the other stores are also not there yet.

The East Albury store has now been trading for many months without a license. This store has had the usual opposition to its application, although owner, Bob Matthews, remains confident it will get through soon.

The New Boothmans IGA at Corowa believes its battle to open the bottle shop will be a challenge.

Since the recent changes in the licensing laws in NSW it has become much more difficult to gain a license in comparison to Victorian stores. Refer to the article published in this magazine's May edition 2004, where the NSW government was not keen on the number of licenses growing from the existing threshold, this sentiment was also shared by others in the industry.

So to those NSW stores planning a new bottle shop in their supermarket, it pays to start early to avoid possible disappointment when opening your store. It is going to be a long haul and one that will require time and money.

John Markham



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