

State Government Licenses.

A.

I hold a wine producers license.

My main gripe is the annual return of liquor sales, a hangover from the days when the state levied its own tax on liquor sales. Its of no use to man or beast and requires an immense amount of clerical work to present it in the manner required.

The matter of a 'licensed area' is a petty business that has little purpose or rationale on a rural area on a farm. Why insist on delineating it?

I dislike the notion of licensed premise notification at entry. It puts my facility in the same category as a suburban pub. What's the point? This is officious.

The work involved in obtaining a producer's license has become more onerous and bureaucratic over the years. What's the value in this?

When WA was a convict colony licenses probably served a social purpose. Today?

B. Building Licenses.

I want to be able to erect buildings on my property and for this I am limited, as an owner builder to one residence and one commercial building every six years. Why? If I am a capable builder I don't lose my capabilities and magically recover them on a six-year rotation. I am not permitted to build chalets for rental. If I can build a house why not a chalet?

I have two properties an hour drive apart. I need two residences. I may need two commercial buildings. I have building skills.

The business of satisfying the authorities that I am a legitimate claimant of the status of owner builder is onerous and bureaucratic in the extreme. Example. I own a property that has my company name on a title deed. I am required to obtain a lease of the property that I own via my company that specifies that I am permitted by myself (as company director and main shareholder) to erect a building on that land.

I am not allowed to submit applications by email, only by post.

I am not allowed to apply for more than one building or an associated exemption in the same letter of application.

I gave up trying. It appears that this authority exists to protect licensed builders and create a closed shop, a form of monopoly. Innovation frequently comes from outside the industry and a licensing system tends to stifle innovation.

As an owner builder, if I do a shoddy job I suffer the consequences. That's life. I don't need bureaucrats who know nothing of building or aesthetics or peoples needs and capacities looking over my shoulder acting as gatekeepers, especially on a rural property where there is lots of space and no neighbors to offend.