



Great outcome: Beaten Track Brewery owner Nick Galton-Fenzi. Photo: PAUL BRAVEN

Act review welcomed

■ Michael Dulaney



Local craft beer producer Beaten Track Brewery has seen some vindication for its push to change liquor licensing laws and allow it to serve beer on its premises.

The brewery is currently only able to sell beer in small samples for tasting. However, it could soon be selling by the glass if the recommendations of a long-awaited review of the Liquor Control Act are adopted by the WA Government.

One of the 144 recommendations in the report presented to the Government this week is

for an amendment to section 55 of the Act to allow approved breweries to sell beer onsite, a condition which currently only applies to wine producers.

The recommendation comes after four years of lobbying by Beaten Track Brewery owner Nick Galton-Fenzi, with support from Kalgoorlie MLA Wendy Duncan and former member for O'Connor Tony Crook. He began lobbying for the changes after discovering the current Act would require him to apply for a tavern license if he wanted to sell beer over the bar.

"I cannot get a tavern licence because of the zoning of the land I'm currently sitting on, and a whole lot of other reasons blocking that method of

trade," Mr Galton-Fenzi said.

Mr Galton-Fenzi said while there is no certainty the recommendations would be adopted by the Government, the findings of the review committee are a step in the right direction for consumer choice.

"We probably refuse service to about 50 people per week who say they would rather have a glass rather than a tasting sampler," he said.

"Some people just want to have a glass, just to try one or two before purchasing a bottle.

"We're not big volume traders, we don't advertise at all, it's purely a very niche market with a loyal interest group in the local community.

"It will just give customers

and tourists an option, it is what it is - it provides the consumer with an option which under the current legislation is not available to them."

Ms Duncan said the findings are a win for the sector and praised the brewery for its involvement in the review process.

"Beaten Track Brewery in Kalgoorlie-Boulder is a great little business which adds to the experience of visitors to the region, but could only provide samples of its product in shot glasses," she said.

"Thanks to their submission and others, the Review recommends that boutique breweries be treated the same as wineries, which is a great outcome."