

Sent via email to: lacsc@parliament.qld.gov.au

Attention:
Research Director
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane QLD 4000



Submission to the Liquor and Legislation Amendment Bill 2017

To the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee (*the Committee*)

Thank you for allowing me to make a submission in relation to Tackling Alcohol-Fuelled Violence Legislation Amendment Act 2016, with the primary objective of the Bill being to reduce alcohol and drug related violence in Queensland's nightlife. I make this submission on behalf of Safe Night Townsville CBD Precinct Inc.

I have present previously a submission in relation to the *Tackling Alcohol-Fuelled Violence Legislation Amendment Bill 2015* on behalf of then CBD Townsville Liquor Accord prior to the formation of Safe Night Townsville CBD Precinct Inc.

- **Repealing the Lockout**

As from the recent Deakin University Australia (*9.2 Evidence, page 58,59,60*)

'evaluating their effectiveness as a stand-alone measure can be difficult.'

'found that lockouts can impact negatively on smaller bars and those that trade earlier, because patrons chose to go to venues offering the most options for entertainment and socialising.'

'have shown little discernible impact on assaults; but have been found to at least stop pre-drinking at the prescribed hour. However, it is unclear whether this has benefits in its own right and other negative consequences (such as impacting small venues and earlier traders)'

'Australian research has demonstrated overwhelmingly that last drinks at 3am or earlier is by far the most effective measure implemented'

'In the case of multi-pronged approaches, research has shown that it is trading hours restrictions that are impactful, not the lockout or other measures.'

Lockouts have come and gone in various states with never a clear evidence based conclusion if lockouts work for the reduction offences or assaults. Time and time again the multipronged approach to include lockouts with an earlier cessation of alcohol service simply *do not work* and should be repealed in consideration of the Bill and to be never considered again to introduce to the Bill.

However, the formalisation of the new Safe Night Precincts (SNP's) along with Public Safety Consultative Committee, could introduce a voluntary lockout if violence was a concern within the precinct or region.

Lockouts are also detrimental to small business trade, employment (Townsville being the highest youth unemployment in QLD), growth of regional CBD's, tourism and other economical I benefits that may present to the regional areas. Some examples of economic benefits for Townsville are V8 Supercars, PBR Bull riding, Cowboys home games along with the new stadium project, Navel and Cruise Ships visiting and Singapore Army being based within Townsville.

- ***Repealing the 3a.m. Safe Night Precincts (SNPs) model***

It is under the opinion of the Safe Night Townsville CBD Precinct Inc. the cessation of alcohol should remain at 3am, with the current 12 one off extensions per year to be able to trade till 5am.

The cessation of alcohol at 3am should however be reviewed every 3 years due to the growth of Queensland and the demand of entertainment. If such development that included licensed venues was to occur the government should consider the nature of the licensed premises and whether a SNP's board should be formed.

Having SNP's entertainment precincts in the one area or zoned areas, allows for better policing and emergency services access to patrons and does not spread the services across the town or city. It also is more effective in moving large amounts of people in and out of a central area because of the centralised public transport options.

The proximity of venues allows for improved CCTV, lighting and improved amenities. One of the biggest advantages is that venues can work together and communicate effectively with police to reduce recidivist offenders from entry to other licenced venues.

A venue who has an extension of licence past 12am should have the same licencing conditions as those who trade from 12am to 3am or 5am, thus improving overall safety and regulatory compliance in any venue trading past midnight. There are a huge number of venues in QLD who trade from 12midnight to 2am/3am then there are those venues that trade from 12am to 3am – 5am. The conditions would include but are not limited to;

- a. Security guards vs. patron numbers
- b. Occupancy numbers in the venue
- c. Fire regulations
- d. CCTV cameras
- e. License fees and license conditions
- f. Amplification regulations
- g. Join a SNP or form a SNP

- ***Winding back trading hours for licensees removed from an SNP due to a boundary change***

There is a significant increase in numbers of venues that can trade past 12midnight without the licencing requirements as those from 12am to 3am – 5 am, has directly contributed to the increase of alcohol and drug related violence. These extensions have been granted without possibly considering all the social infrastructure, transportation, licence conditions, pre-loading, safety needs and flow on effects.

Keeping SNP's entertainment precincts in the one area or zoned areas, allows for better Policing and emergency services access to patrons and does not spread the services across the town or city. It also is more effective in moving large amounts of people in and out of a central area because of the centralised public transport options.

The proximity of venues allows for improved CCTV, lighting and improved amenities. One of the biggest advantages is that venues can work together and communicate effectively with Police to reduce recidivist offenders from entry to other licenced venues.

Any licensed venue who trades past 12am to 1am, 2am or 3am outside a designated SNP should be reduced to 12am trading. Unless other entertainment such as gambling with cessation of alcohol service to those gaming rooms but with should pose the same licensing conditions as those within the SNP areas.

- ***Tightening the temporary late-night extended hours permit regime***

It is under the opinion of the Safe Night Townsville CBD Precinct Inc. the cessation of alcohol should remain at 3am, with the current 12 one off extensions per year to be able to trade till 5am. But only within a SNP area. This allows for better Policing and emergency services access to patrons and does not spread the services across the town or city. It also is more effective in moving large amounts of people in and out of a central area because of the centralised public transport options, but also allows for improved CCTV, lighting and improved amenities.

The impacts of reducing number or completely not at all of the current 'one off extensions' will negatively impact the regional areas, and will stop licensed and small businesses who genuinely use the extended hours permits for events that come to the region. Those events could be? using Townsville as example;

- V8's (3-day event)
- TSV CUP
- Cowboys home games & new stadium located just a few hundred metres from SNP (12 home games)
- PBR Bull riding (3-day event)
- Cricket / AFL / World Cup Rugby (2 nights)
- Long Weekends / Public Holidays (5 per year)

Regionally SNP's / small business depends on those 12 extensions per year to ensure venues remain profitable, the reduction to 3am cessation of alcohol has already impacted the profitability from these venues.

Townsville and other regional areas also have high unemployment and youth unemployment rates.

The key events are what drives tourism and the night time economy, whether we like it or not hospitality will play a big role in local council's visions to revitalize the CBD's and drives all other small business from hospitality stores, fruit, uniforms, buses & taxis, fast food to the delivery man.

- **Extending banning order sentencing regime to prescribed drug offences**

It is under the opinion of the Safe Night Townsville CBD Precinct Inc. that any harsher penalties, increased Policing powers and increased jurisdictions court sentencing in relation to drug and alcohol violence, will be always supported.

Extended banning order sentencing regime will also be supported by our precinct.

- **"regulated premises", with approved regular extended trading hours beyond midnight, must continue to scan patron ID's**

It is under the opinion of the Safe Night Townsville CBD Precinct Inc. that ID scanners should be in place for venues whom trade after 12am midnight within SNP's AND those venues outside providing gambling as entertainment.

Thus, improving an overall ban within and without a SNP, giving the violent or offensive person limited opportunity to be within a licensed premise.

ID scanning should only be introduced after 10pm, allowing those licensed venues who provided food, not to impeded on every day families who are intending to dine.

We trust this submission will be considered by the Parliamentary Committee. If you require any more clarification on any item in this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me any time.

END



On behalf of Safe Night Townsville CBD Precinct Inc.

Mark Napier

Director Mad Cow Tavern – Est. 1997

Address: 129 Flinders Street East, Townsville QLD 4810

Postal: Po Box 374, Belgian Gardens QLD 4810

Contact: 0407 965 410



References

Impact of the Last Drinks and Lockouts – prepared for the Queensland Government by Deakin University Australia