

## **Safe Night Precinct Ipswich**

16<sup>th</sup> February 2017

Acting Research Director  
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Sir / Madam,

Please find submissions below in relation to the Liquor and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017 for your consideration. We do note the short time given to provide a response.

The Ipswich Safe Night Precinct, as an entertainment precinct, had been in decline in the last few years (Prior to 2014). Reasons for the previous decline are varied but anecdotally include;

- Majority of CBD owned by disinterested overseas investor. No maintenance. This has changed with the Council backed Ipswich Properties purchasing the properties, developing and investing heavily in revitalizing the Ipswich CBD.

The area is now showing positive signs of growth with significant investment in the SNP area by developers; notably ICON tower block, 88 Limestone Development and the Circa Development in Brisbane Street as well as the future \$160M development by the Ipswich City Properties. This large development includes an outdoor entertainment area in the old CBD mall. This is bringing office workers back into the Ipswich CBD and the Ipswich SNP. The area now boasts new and “trendy” venues (open or about to be opened) that are moving towards developing a sustainable entertainment precinct. There is a strong Friday after work culture being developed which is being strengthened on Saturdays by;

- Entertainment at the Ipswich Civic Center (which is in the Ipswich SNP)
- Festivals organized by the Ipswich City Council in the Top of Town precinct (which is in the Ipswich SNP).

The licensee's in the Ipswich SNP area predominately operate until 12 Midnight. There currently is only 1 operating late night trader in the Ipswich SNP area. The Ipswich SNP members are participating in the late night liquor licensing discussion to ensure that the future growth of the Ipswich CBD entertainment precinct is protected by decisions that are made now.

The area of greatest concern with the Liquor and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017 is the changing of the late-night extended hours permit regime. At this point in time of the regeneration of the Ipswich CBD, this change is the most detrimental. The growth of the CBD into a vibrant entertainment precinct will require venues to use the 12 temporary late-night extended hours permit regime first, to develop the market. It is envisaged that once the market can support the 12 temporary late night extended hours, licensees would then adopt an extended trading license. This approach allows for an orderly growth of the precinct. The handicapping of the SNP licensees for

future growth by reducing these 12 temporary late-nights extended hours to 6, while increasing the acceptance criteria for this permits will stymie the growth of the Ipswich SNP.

It should be noted that the Ipswich entertainment market in the CBD is currently geared for special late night events rather than trading late every weekend. The Ipswich SNP includes;

- the Ipswich Civic Center where functions and events are held
- 88 Limestone entertainment precinct due for opening in May 2017
- The Ipswich CBD public entertainment hub due for completion in 2018.

The reduction in these permits and or increasing the acceptance criteria for these permits will destroy the hard work done to date and the investment made by licensees in the CBD / Ipswich SNP. We advocate that the 12 temporary late-night extended hours permits remain the same and the acceptance criteria remain the same. The SNP area should have more temporary late-night extended hours permits available than non SNP areas as SNPs are best equipped to deal with the additional hours of liquor service given the enhanced safety measures in place in these areas. The anomaly of the Fortitude Valley legally using their yearly allocation of 12 late night extended trading hours permits in the space of 3 months to effectively trade to 5pm should not be the catalyst to penalise all licensees. The existing 12 late night extended trading hours permits system is being relied upon by the Ipswich SNP licensee's as part of the orderly growth of the Ipswich City CBD entertainment area.

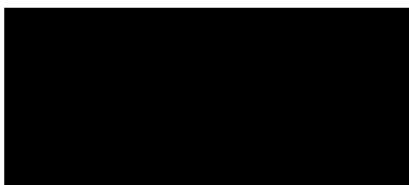
Although part of the 2014 Legislation, the one late night venue licensee in the Ipswich SNP is supportive of ID scanners but only when the venues actually trade beyond midnight. They do not want to be scanning patrons on a quite Thursday night at 10pm when they intend to close at midnight. They also make the point that they would like to see funding to support for these scanners. This position is supported by the Ipswich SNP.

The Ipswich SNP supports the repeal of the lock out provisions.

The Ipswich SNP supports the new "banning" provisions.

We thank the Committee for the opportunity to make these submissions.

Kind regards



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