

SNP

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17/02/2017

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

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Dear Sir/Madam

As per your letter dated 15 February 2017, please find following submission by Broadbeach Safe Night Precinct Association (**Broadbeach SNP**) regarding the Liquor and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017.

[Repeal of the lockout: The repeal will prevent licensees from having to comply with the lockout](#)

Broadbeach SNP supports the repeal of the lockout, however respectfully objects to the Commissioner for Liquor and Gaming to continue to have power to impose a lock out. Broadbeach SNP has always rejected the concept of a lockout as it leaves potentially intoxicated patrons on the street. Whilst SNP's feature various street security & safety initiatives, the street cannot be controlled in the same manner as a licensed premises. It is believed that patrons are better managed within venues, and locking patrons out on the street will cause more issues.

[Repeal of the 3am SNP Model and wind back of trading hours for licensees removed from an SNP due to a boundary change](#)

Broadbeach SNP does not support the repeal of the SNP model. There is not enough information regarding the proposed changes to boundaries of the SNP. It is unjust to change boundaries of a precincts without consultation and forcibly remove extended trading hours from premises that are currently licensed with regular extended trading hours.

The Broadbeach SNP only accepts the repeal of the SNP model if the aim of the repeal is to promote a vibrant night-time economy throughout Queensland. It should be recognised that SNP's are best equipped to deal with the late service of alcohol and any potential issues that might arise through this service. The SNP is vital for:

- Open communication between licensees and stakeholders;
- Support through funding, promotion and implementation of safe initiatives;
- A safe and vibrant late night economy

Tightening of the temporary late-night extended hours permit regime:

- Permits reduced from 12 to 6, per calendar year
- no more than one permit per month
- Permits can only be issued for a special events – such as a wedding or private function
- Permits can only be issued for a special public event of state or national significant – ie televised sporting event or music festival
- Permits cannot be issued for consecutive days or multiple times in a month only if the permit relates to a single special occasion that occurs over multiple days.

Broadbeach SNP does not support the tightening of temporary late-night extended hours permit regime. Broadbeach SNP respectfully suggests that rather than reducing the temporary permits allowed, the number of temporary permits allowed should be *increased* by 6 per calendar year for premises situated within an SNP, therefore allowing a total of 18 temporary extended trading hours in a year. As previously mentioned, SNP's are well equipped to handle increased trade and business operators within the precinct implore the support of the government.

It should also be noted that taking into account expected holidays (New Years and Christmas) licensees in reality will be left with 2 – 4 extended trading permits that align only with a national/state public event or private function. Entertainment venues such as Nightclubs and Hotels often have artists of national or international status performing at their venues. However, under the new legislation it does not seem that this would warrant a late trading permit (to 4 or 5am). By engaging international artists, businesses are increasing the commercial profile of the area for residents and increasing the attractiveness of the area to tourists on an international stage. For example, Surfers Paradise business are allowed to trade 24 hours given the nature of the area. Business should have the right to operate within trading hours approved under their development permit, as intended for the area.

The severe reduction in regular and temporary extended trading hours and the criteria in which temporary extended trading hours can be obtained is crippling the nightlife, entertainment and tourism industries. Gold Coast sees approximately 10 million tourists a year, many of which stay in the CBD areas of Broadbeach or Surfers Paradise. Furthermore, Gold Coast will host the 2018 Commonwealth Games. With such a heavy reliance on tourism and the area soon to be highlighted globally, it is imperative that the city (and its nightlife) be able to trade at full capacity. Queensland nightlife should be moving forward and is unable to compete on a global scale with such draconian laws. Early closure times in the Sydney CBD and Kings Cross areas led to a slight reduction in assault rates but this was primarily attributed to almost 80% of late venues closing. It is predicted that the implementation of such restrictive trading hours on licensees throughout Queensland and more specifically the Gold Coast will result in a severe downturn in the night time economy. The members of Broadbeach SNP strongly agree that regular 5am trade with the sale and supply of liquor should return to safe night precinct areas.

#### Extension of banning order sentencing regime to prescribed drug offences

Broadbeach SNP supports the legislation regarding extension of banning order sentencing. This legislation places emphasis on undesirable individuals and is believed to proactively aid in the amenity and safety of areas surrounding licensed venues.

#### ID Scanners

ID scanners are recognised as an effective measure in venue safety and most late trading venues already operate ID scanners at the premises. However it is an expensive measure installing new linked systems. Substantial government grant funding is available for Safe Night Precincts to put towards 'safe initiatives' however ID scanners are not currently on the approved list. It is the general consensus amongst licensees that the grant money would be most effective if it could be used for ID scanners. As such Broadbeach SNP supports the legislation in introducing mandatory networked ID scanners, but respectfully suggests a review of the government grant funding safe night precincts to include networked ID scanners on the approved list.

On another note, Broadbeach SNP would also like to highlight that the exclusion of the Casino from such laws is not in keeping with the Government's objectives regarding the safety of the precinct. Licensees of the precinct note that since the reduction in their licensed hours, a significant number of patrons visiting the precinct have opted to attend the Casino rather than local businesses. As such, the Casino should be required to be included in the networked ID scanning regime.

### Summary

In closing, Broadbeach SNP never agreed with any of the changes forcibly introduced by the State Government. It is believed that the legislation (with particular weight being placed on the reduction in liquor service hours on a regular basis and the tightening of extended trading hours permits) is overly restrictive, damaging to business and does not directly solve problems associated with Alcohol abuse and misuse. The business sector and the free public have already been severely negatively impacted as a result of these laws and the late night economy might survive. It is crucial for the 5am trade to return if QLD is to have any chance of a vibrant night-time economy. Furthermore, is unfair to monopolise casinos and impose such heavy restrictions only on local businesses. It was noted in the 2011 Census that Cafes / Restaurants and Takeaway Food Services, Accommodation and Hospitals were listed as primary industries of the Gold Coast. All industries operate at all times of the day and night. Persons living on the gold coast can start / finish work at any time of the day and are disadvantaged by the precinct/s closing early. Unlike office / retail workers who work between 9am and 5pm, the staff of these other major industries do not have the opportunity to go the beach, or hinterland, or dinner/entertainment venues as everything is closed except the Casino. Furthermore, Surfers Paradise in the Gold Coast is permitted to trade 24 hours under the town plan. There should be a well-balanced and diverse range of late night options for tourists and persons residing on the Gold Coast to experience at times suited to their needs. Late trading venues offer a safe and open place for these members of the communities.

It is believed that the alcohol and substance abuse being publicised by the media is not caused by late traders or the time that alcohol is served, rather is caused by a change in societal behaviour. Initiatives such as the extension of banning order sentencing regime to prescribed drug offences and the implementation of networked ID scanners are believed to be legitimate to the cause in targeting individuals who cannot conform to the society's behavioural standards. The proactive management of licensed venues and precincts can effectively manage patron behaviour and directly contribute to the safety of licensed venues and surrounding areas. As such, we implore the government to consider the re-introduction of 5am liquor trade on a regular basis (in conjunction with the existing suite of safety measures & regulation) in SNP's to create a safe & vibrant nightlife for Queensland.

We thank you for the opportunity to provide our submission in response to the Liquor and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017.

Yours Faithfully,

Melynda Robinson  
Administrator  
Safe Night Broadbeach CBD Precinct Inc.