

Safe Night Cairns CBD Precinct Inc.

Research Director
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee
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Submission from Safe Night Cairns CBD Precinct Inc.

Re: Liquor and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017

On behalf of the members of the Management Committee and Local Board of the Safe Night Cairns CBD Precinct Inc. (SNCCP) I wish to make the following submission regarding the points to be amended in the Liquor Act 1992 through the Liquor and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017.

1. Repeal the lockdown:

- The SNCCP favours the repeal of the lockdown, as submitted to the QLD government by a number of services, organisations and agencies at the round table consultation in Cairns on 21 January 2016 and by letters from the SNCCP and its supporters to the Attorney General on 16 November 2016 (attached).

2. Repeal the 3a.m. Safe Night Precincts model:

- **Wind back trading hours for licensees removed from an SNP due to a boundary change:**
The SNCCP submits that *a//*licensed venues trading outside a Safe Night Precinct (SNP) should either have their trading hours for the sale of liquor wound back to 12am, or be subject to the same regulations imposed on venues within an SNP that trade after 12am (such as ID scanners, ratio of security guards to patrons, only 6 extended trading permits (XTPs) per year, etc.).

Under this proposal to the Amendments Bill if a venue that trades until 2am inside an SNP, where they are subjected to all the legislative requirements of an SNP such as ID scanner, more security guards and only 6 XTPs per year, is rezoned to fall outside the SNP they can still trade until 2am but no longer are subject to the restrictions imposed within the SNP, *and* their XTPs increase to 12 per year.

- We submit that this proposed amendment, without further conditions imposed on licensed venues outside the SNP, lacks foresight as to the possible, if not probable, consequences. Such venues will be a great attraction to those persons who wish to enjoy themselves with liquor without the inconveniences of having their ID scanned or security personnel keeping a watch on them. Those who are banned from accessing venues within the SNP, due to alcohol or drug fuelled violence or other unacceptable behaviour, can freely access licensed venues outside of an SNP due to lack of ID scanning and drink until 2am.

- We submit that there is far more alcohol and drug related violence in our suburbs, be it in and around licensed venues and community events or in family homes, than there is in any SNP and that this is the prime reason licensed venues outside of SNPs should either have their sales of liquor cease at 12 midnight, or submit to the same legislation as within the SNPs.
3. **Tighten the temporary late-night extended hours permit regime:**
- The SNCCP submits that the extended trading hours permit (XTP) regime should be legislated on an individual SNP basis.
 - We submit that in an SNP where the Local Board has proven itself to be responsible by instigating and maintaining procedures to ensure that their SNP is a safe environment the XTPs should be maintained at 12, albeit with the changes to the definition of what constitutes a 'special occasion' as planned by the QLD government. Cairns, for example, has proven itself statistically to be a safe SNP of long standing due to the willing cooperation of all stakeholders to carry out the policies and procedures of the SNCCP and to work together to achieve this end.
4. **Extend banning order sentencing regime to prescribed drug offences:**
- The SNCCP supports extending the banning order sentencing regime to prescribed drug offences.
5. **Clarify that licensees of "regulated premises", with approved regular extended trading hours beyond midnight, must continue to scan patron IDs if serving liquor beyond their usual hours under a temporary late-night extended hours permit:**
- While it is clear that the "regulated premises" referred to in the statement above are only those within an SNP that trade after 12am we refer to our submissions made above with regards to extending that same regulation to licensed premises outside the SNP that sell liquor until 1am or 2am, or winding their liquor trading hours back to 12am.
 - We again state that the predominance of violent incidents occurring in our metropolitan suburbs in the form of domestic violence, shootings, stabbings, "coward punches", drink driving deaths and injuries far outweigh the number of incidents occurring within the SNPs. The majority of those persons involved in these horrifying incidents are those who buy and consume their liquor at venues and takeaway outlets outside of the SNPs. Yet these venues are not required to adhere to stringent regulations that may save lives and reduce the frequent and widespread incidents of alcohol fuelled violence in our suburbs. We submit that situation should change at the earliest possible time.

Thank you for considering our submissions.

Sincerely,



John Lynch

President . Safe Night Cairns CBD Precinct Inc.

