

# Safe Night Rockhampton CBD Precinct Inc.

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Correspondence to:  
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17th February 2017

## TO: Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

Dear Committee,

The Rockhampton SNP has had many meetings and discussions about the *Tackling Alcohol-Fuelled Violence Legislation Amendment Act*. We have not had a meeting since the 14<sup>th</sup> of February when the bill was introduced to parliament, but these are the issues we have discussed at previous SNP meeting.

### Mandatory ID Scanning Provisions

The main concern to members of the Rockhampton SNP is the introduction of I.D. scanners across all venues. I.D. scanners are already in use in all Nightclub venues that trade until 3am in Rockhampton, and have proved a very effective tool at identifying problem patrons, and assisting police identify patrons. The system that we currently use (I.D.Tect) is networked to a central database, and accessed through all venues, so that we already have an "out of one, out of all" policy for banned patrons.

I have spoken to the provider of this system, and they have informed me that they will not be applying to OLGR to become an approved operator. This means the money we have invested in these systems will be for nothing, and we will lose approximately \$25,600 (\$6,400 per unit). I have been looking at pricing on the new units, and so far I have only been offered to lease a unit at the cost of \$109 per week (\$5,600PA). These costs are too high compared to the price that we pay for our existing machines.

The SNP believe that widespread introduction of I.D. scanners across all types of venues isn't the right model, in Rockhampton all of our nightclubs use them, but now all the pubs and late night poker machine venues will now have to use them too. I believe a case by case model would be a better option, where local police and OLGR consultation would identify the venues that require these machines.

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

The Rockhampton SNP has had a high use of late-night extensions, and I believe this shows that there is a need for it. We have several large events every year

- Caulfield Cup race day
- Rockhampton Cup Race Carnival
- Beef Week
- Local Football
- PBR Bull Riding
- Long Weekends / Public Holidays (5 per year)

The SNP are worried that under the new permit restrictions, we may not be approved for a 5am permit on a day like Caulfield Cup race day as the event finishes during the day. This is one of the busiest nights of the year within the SNP, people travel to the area to attend this event.

The SNP believe it is an unfair disadvantage to now be limited to 6 permits a year simply by being inside an SNP while hotels outside can have 12 permits available. This will create problems by moving patrons into suburban hotels if they have a 5AM extended hours permit.

Being a regional centre we often have large touring bands that play in Rockhampton mid-week (In between weekend gigs in towns like Brisbane and Cairns) and one venue that hosts a lot of bands is only licenced until midnight during the week. This venue relies on extended hours permits during the week to host these acts. Under the new 6 permit scheme with tighter conditions, they may not be able to offer these bands in the future, and have already booked them (eg Midnight oil on Thursday the 12th of October at the Great Western Hotel)

We understand that in Brisbane CBD the Extended Hours Permits have been used to simply keep venues open, However we ask that Regional and Tourist areas be given some sort of special consideration as we have a genuine need for these permits.

We would also like it noted that it is difficult for the Rockhampton SNP (or any SNP) to provide an accurate submission to the Committee when we were given less than 48 hours to prepare. In future it may help to make submission deadlines for 9am Monday morning not 5pm Friday when the call for submission it send out after 5pm on a Thursday.

Thank you

Hamish Hughes

President  
Safe Night Rockhampton CBD Precinct Inc.

