



10 April 2017

Mr Duncan Pegg MP
Chair
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee
Queensland Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane QLD 4000

lacsc@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Pegg,

Submission to the Inquiry into the *Liquor (Rural Hotels Concession) Amendment Bill 2017*

The Queensland Hotels Association (QHA) would like to thank the Committee for the opportunity to comment on this Bill under consideration by the Queensland Parliament.

The QHA is the peak body representing the hotel and tourism accommodation industry in Queensland. Our membership currently comprise over 800 companies, covering the state from beyond the tip of Cape York, to country pubs and throughout the coastal strip down to Coolangatta. These are the employers of over 80,000 Queenslanders, which provide entertainment every week to thousands of patrons, give musicians a break and entice our tourists to stay a little longer.

Our goal is to promote a business environment that encourages these companies to invest, or re-invest, in Queensland and that members of the hotel and hospitality industry can operate within regulations that allow them a prosperous future.

As such, the QHA recommends this Bill to the Committee and that it should be supported in Parliament.

License Fees

As mentioned by the Member for Mt Isa, Robbie Katter whilst introducing this Bill to Parliament, license fees are a significant impost on businesses throughout the state, however, this is unevenly felt in rural and regional areas. A standardised license fee may appear administratively simple from the view of Queensland Government, however the ability of country pubs to recoup these costs is severely limited.

Pubs in country areas are at a significant disadvantage as there is no opportunity to increase their trade or defray costs for much of the year. This is particularly evident in areas where seasonal industries dictate population. For example, western Queensland may be popular for driving tourist in

winter but is relies on a very small local population throughout the rest of the year. Similarly, those areas that rely upon agricultural production do not have large populations year round.

The QHA recommends to the Parliament that showing consideration for those license holders in regional and remote areas, whilst not directly solving the issue of attracting more custom, would certainly alleviate the cost burden on the industry. Further, the QHA would recommend that license fees should be reduced in regional/coastal areas as well as those that are classified as the most remote.

Should you require further information the QHA would be available at any of the Committee's hearings. Please contact me directly on [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Bernie Hogan
Chief Executive
Queensland Hotels Association