

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee](#)
Subject: Liquor (Rural Hotels Concession) Amendment Bill 2017
Date: Tuesday, 2 May 2017 3:20:22 PM
Attachments: [REDACTED]

Dear Sir

Please find attached my submission along with other relevant comments that should also be considered by Committee.

Kind Regards

Warren G Robinson

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Proposed Changes to Liquor Licensing Fee.

History;

Prior to 1993-4 Liquor Licensing Fee was paid annually in advance, based on last year's purchases, was calculated at 10%.

Successful Court action found that the State had no right to collect the fee in that manner, the outcome was that the 10% was added to the Wholesale cost and collected by the Wholesaler, rather than be paid by the Hotel.

For several years after that, there was no License Fee, but successive Governments have crept in a "Administration Fee ", now known as the License Fee, charged annually. The fee of \$3500pa+ has no bearing on the size nor location of the business or its ability to pay.

The result has been a decline in the number of Hotels, as they have become less and less viable, with many operators closing the doors.

There are several issues that need to be investigated, if we are not to lose more and more of these businesses;

- Liquor License Fees
- Electricity
- Rates
- Health and Wellbeing of Operators
- Availability of Suitable Staff

These issues are more predominant in the Bush, but are also relevant in smaller coastal towns.

License Fee

The KAP proposal for a \$350.00pa License Fee is more in line with the cost to the Government in administering their role as supervisors of Hotels.

A fee of this size for properties with purchases of less than \$1m is appropriate.

It shouldn't be forgotten, the Government are still receiving the 10% on purchases fee, this seems to have been left out of all OLGR and other Government communications.

The current fee is not based on purchases, but the revenue to Government on purchases is still received (GST), therefore the current fee, is an additional revenue generator for the OLGR.

Electricity

We own and operate the only Hotel-Motel in Augathella and Electricity supply is a major concern and cost, because we are at the end of a supply line, there is no competition, we can only purchase our Electricity from Ergon. Because we are at the end of the line, we cannot utilize Solar, as there is no capacity to return power to the grid, yet we have an abundance of Sun and have a good business case to invest the capital in solar.

Rates

Our Council Rates increase every year, well beyond the CPI, this year a staggering 20% increase, as less rate payers are available to Council, due to the decline in population. Yet at the same time the value of our property falls. Hardly a level playing field.

Health & Wellbeing.

Section 155AD 7 (B) states that the Approved Manager can be no more than 1 hour away from the premises, that is a nonsense, lacks any commonsense and demonstrates the author of the clause has absolutely no comprehension of Rural and remote Queensland, despite the fact it does give the Commissioner some discretion, that discretion is impractical in most cases.

In most rural locations, it is neither possible nor financially viable to have more than one person with the appropriate Approved Manager Certificate, it makes no allowance for the distance that needs to be traveled for, medical, supplies or many other things needed to sustain life away from the major cities.

It also allows no time for a break from the premises, impacting on the health and wellbeing of the operator, industrial law and safe work practices clearly show that

recreational leave is an important part of any job function, yet the authors have overlooked their responsibilities in this regard.

The notion, that the premises can be closed, is equally as illogical, as the other costs keep going.

Staff

As rural populations decline, the availability of suitable staff who are willing to pay fees to get a job, I refer to RSA, whilst the cost is only \$49, it should be free, no other job requires a fee before you can be employed, the training course needs to be at no cost and online.

RMLV, Responsible Management of Licensed Venues cost a staggering \$495 for training (QHA) and \$476.20 to register with the OLGR, yet a 5 year Driver's License is only \$165.00, how do OLGR justify these costs?

The RMLV is issued for a period of 5 years, yet the holder needs to sit a refresher course every 3 years, hardly a logical or sensible arrangement.

Historically, prior to the 1990's changes, a Licensee could be absent for 1 month without being in breach of the License, that is a much more sensible and practical arrangement, business owners are not going to leave unskilled people in charge of their businesses, but the current requirement is top heavy and impractical.