



Birdsville Hotel Pty Ltd

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11/5/17

Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee
For the attention of the Acting Committee Secretary

Parliament House
Brisbane QLD 4000

SUBMISSION FOR THE REDUCTION IN LIQUOR LICENSING FEES FOR VERY REMOTE HOTELS

To Whom It May Concern,

The Birdsville Hotel is located in Birdsville, 1,600 km west of Brisbane, on the edge of the Simpson Desert. Our season starts in April and continues until the end of September. The pub has two spacious bars, 2 dining areas, a garden bar, and 27 modern motel units. Since 1980 the current owners and management have ensured guest services every day except Christmas Day. As with many outback hotels the pub is the hub of the town and in that role contributes to the social capital of the community.

Patrons and guests include:
Travellers staying in our accommodation
Travellers (tourism)
Locals and contractors

All supplies are transported from Adelaide or Brisbane on a weekly, fortnightly or monthly basis depending on the time of the year. Understanding seasonal variability is a major factor in the

success (or not) of the hotel business. The summer months are particularly challenging due to intense summer temperatures. The Simpson Desert is closed to all travellers and most businesses wind down (or temporarily close doors) for the duration. At this time the hotel can rely on a handful of locals which means the business runs at a loss for 3 months of the year.

Climatic extremes at any time are a test for businesses all over Australia. However in remote areas impact is far reaching.

For example - rain closes roads and restricts access.

Contingency funds for the 'quiet summer months are impacted if extreme weather events occur during the tourism season. We believe that we need to consider and plan for the effect of more frequent climatic events.

There is a business case to close the Birdsville Hotel for 6-8 weeks during the summer months and this is being considered in the 17-18 Financial Year Business Plan and Budget.

The business of doing business in the Outback has particular operational challenges that urban hotels do not have to budget for. Every service offered has to be transported vast distances and with travel comes a cost component.

We understand and accept that there is a need for Licenses and Fees.

However not all circumstances are the same so we would welcome changes to the existing licensing framework to reflect the unique circumstances we are faced with in Birdsville.

Yours Sincerely



Jo Fort
General Manager