

**Federal Palace Hotel (Richmond) Pty Ltd**  
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9th May 2017

Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee  
Queensland Parliament  
Parliament House  
George Street  
Brisbane Qld 4822

Email: [lacsc@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:lacsc@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Inquiry into the *Liquor (Rural Hotels Concession) Amendment Bill 2017*

I wish to respond to and support the above Bill and thank Mr Robbie Katter MP for his consideration of all things rural and remote. Richmond is situated on the Flinders Highway almost half way between Townsville and Mt. Isa. Our hotel doesn't have pokies or TAB but is one of two hotels in the small community with approximately 700 people in the district covering 26,000 sq klm. At present the district is dealing with the past four years of drought and seemingly another lean year without major rainfall. We are dependent on our locals for income with the Shire Council and rural properties being the main employers.

With ever increasing costs of electricity, insurance (especially old timber buildings such as ours), council rates, freight and the July Liquor Licence Fee, we struggle to maintain a competitive pricing structure compared to larger centres. We are excellent ambassadors for our district and would hate to lose the opportunity to promote the Outback and our local attractions, but the seasonal tourist trade spend little as they tend to stock up in the bigger areas.

Throughout the year our community hosts a few events which increases custom for those times. The event holders rely on us to provide their goods at a decent price. Very difficult, but we do our best as that is just part of living where we do. We shop local as much as we possibly can to help keep local business's operating. We support our two local Licensed Clubs at all times, which takes our trade to them! We're not the standard city hotel which can close the doors and go home, mostly we close the doors and go to work at these various events to assist the not for profit organisations in their fundraising ventures, with our few casual staff already working more than one job. Out here we pride ourselves on the fact that we can get things done with such little man power and slight financial assistance. We are a social meeting place for these same groups and the families of the district but with the gradual exodus from the district over the past years the remote areas are feeling the pinch.

Our incomes are not comparable to the larger centres, nor do larger centres bear the same costs in relation to running a business as we do. We simply do not have the same resources.

We would greatly appreciate Parliament giving consideration to license holders in rural and remote areas, as a reduction in fees would be beneficial to all.

Sincerely,

Thomasine Lillyman  
Owner/Operator