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Your Ref:

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10 May 2017

Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane QLD 4000

Attention: **Duncan Pegg MP**
Chair

Dear Mr Pegg

Endorsement for the Liquor (Rural Hotels Concession) Amendment Bill 2017

Mount Isa City Council would like to provide endorsement for the Liquor (Rural Hotels Concession) Amendment Bill 2017 tabled by member for Mount Isa, Mr Robbie Katter MP on 23 March 2017.

The policy objective of the Bill is to change the existing rigid liquor licensing framework, to enable a reduction in the Licence fee to reflect the unique circumstances of licenced venues in very remote communities, an objective that Mount Isa City Council whole heartedly supports.

Many of the licenced venues in these very remote locations which the Amended Bill aims to support are flanked by primary producers and in the past, it was often said the wealth of Australia rode on the sheep's back; well it's time now to pull back the fleece and support our rural communities.

Communities often use these licenced venues as a place to catch up, hold town and district meetings, Bachelor and Spinster Balls and generally socialise. They also, in many instances represent the cultural and historical value of the local area set by past generations; be it by a collection of memorabilia, historical architecture or verbal narratives of locals and past events by the licensee.

These very remote licenced venues provide an opportunity to create and forge a sense of community and it goes without saying that the wealth of our State is also dependant on the wellbeing of its people after all; after all, a pub with no beer can quickly become just an empty building and a place without people is a community without soul.

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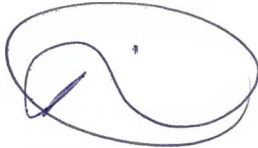


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By actively supporting a reduction to the licensing fees would go some way towards assisting the licensee and by default the community in these very remote areas; and it is with the above in mind that the Mount Isa City Council respectfully request that the Liquor (Rural Hotels Concession) Amendment Bill 2017 be adopted.

Should you have any further queries regarding this matter, or require further clarification, please contact Mount Isa City Council on (07) 4747 3200.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop that encircles the name 'Michael Kitzelmann'.

Michael Kitzelmann
Chief Executive Officer