

Farquhar Corporation Pty Ltd  
As trustee for the Farquhar Trust  
ABN 68 449 516 672

25<sup>th</sup> June 2014

Dear Sir/Madam,

**RE: QLD GOVERNMENTS SAFE NIGHT OUT STRATEGY**

My name is Ross Farquhar and I am part Owner/Operator of The Caxton Hotel. I am also Director of the company that holds the liquor license and following Tuesday's (22/4/6) Caxton Street Precinct Liquor Accord meeting we were encouraged to present further submissions regarding the 'Safe Night Out Strategy'.

I have enclosed my original submission, with some supporting passages from the QLD Hotels Association submission and some further thoughts that were raised at Tuesday's meeting. Whilst I understand the Government's political investment in this strategy, I would also like to emphasize that of the 15 proposed SNPs, Caxton Street is the only one adjacent to a major sporting arena.

With that comes specific circumstances, opportunities and problems. It was also raised at the meeting that there are more than double the number of 'late licenses' with a kilometer of Suncorp Stadium than currently exist in Caxton Street. Hospitality at present is a very tough business and all traders firmly believe we would be handing a great comparative advantage to our competition.

I trust you will view this submission favourably so we can achieve agreement on targeted measures that produce local solutions to location problems.

If I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me. I would also be happy to attend the public hearing on the Bill on the 24<sup>th</sup> of July.

Yours Faithfully,

Ross Farquhar  
Owner/Director  
**The Caxton Hotel**

## Re: Extract from QHA Submission

**Concerns about the proposed scanning regime:** Notwithstanding this strong in-principal support, the licensed industry is concerned that the conditions set for a mandatory ID scanning regime in SNPs be workable, practicable, and will not seriously penalize well-managed and well-intentioned licensed businesses. It is noted that both the Premier's first reading speech when introducing the draft *Bill* into the Legislative Assembly and Section 173EH of Reference G indicated that it is intended that regulated premises/licensees will be required to meet their intended ID scanning obligations from 8.00pm on a day that they are approved to trade beyond 12.00 midnight. This intended regime, including the draft Bill needs to be re-visited such that the practical application and execution of the mandatory ID scanning regime is not so onerous that it has the practical effect of rendering the operations of the licensed premises uneconomic or physically impractical as a consequence of compliance with the ID scanning requirements. For example, almost every hotel venue that is located inside the proposed SNPs will have multiple entrances and exits which are open in the daytime and in the early parts of the evening. As the evening progresses, and as the nature and number of patrons evolves from the 'family' or 'dining' crowd to the 'night-time' crowd, so does the security, staffing and entrance control arrangements of the venue evolve, it is suggested that mandating the proposed ID scanning regime from the relatively early time of 8.00pm will be commercially very harmful for some businesses and will result in an expectation that cannot be physically mounted without disproportionate expense. To be clear, it will require at least two dedicated staff members to effectively operate and enforce a single ID scanning point, and this means that most venues will choose, for commercial reasons, to operate only a single entry and exit point from the commencement time of the ID scanning regime. If one imagines a large crowd of prospective patrons leaving a State of Origin football game with many looking to enter licensed premises in a proposed Caxton Street SNP, then the potential for large lines to form, prospective patrons to turn away, disruption to pedestrian traffic, and the heightening of tension through frustration, then this scenario illustrates the critical importance that the ID scanning regime, and its regulatory framework, be got right. It is therefore strongly recommended that further and detailed consultation take place with existing Accord and LIAG groups in the DSP and similar high-traffic areas with a view to the requirements for mandatory ID scanning times and locations being refined and agreed.

**Recommendation:** The following recommendation is made:

- It is recommended that all venues trading after midnight within a SNP be required to have manned, functioning and locally networked identity scanners incorporating real-time still photography of scanned patrons;
- It is strongly recommended that further and detailed consultation take place with existing Accord and LIAG groups in the DSP and similar high-traffic areas with a view to the requirements for mandatory ID scanning times and locations being refined and agreed;
- That any final regulations for the ID scanning regime only apply for those days on which the respective licensed venue will actually open and trade after midnight, as opposed to those days when the licensed premises may be entitled to trade after midnight but chooses not to; and
- That the conditions specified for ID scanning in the *Safe Night Out Legislation Amendment Bill 2014* be the subject of extensive and detailed further consultation with industry and police stakeholders before a regulatory regime for ID scanning is finally adopted.

Thursday, 17 April 2014

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: QLD GOVERNMENTS SAFE NIGHT OUT STRATEGY

My name is Ross Farquhar and I am part Owner/Operator of The Caxton Hotel. I am also a Director of the company that holds the liquor license. I would like to make a few observations regarding the Safe Night Area Strategy.

CAXTON STREET PRECINCT AS A SAFE NIGHT AREA

Whilst most agree that Caxton Street is very vibrant on Friday & Saturday nights, other than Suncorp Stadium Event Days, I feel with only 3 Venues open after 1am (some nights none or 1) that Sunday to Thursday trading does not warrant a Safe Night Area classification and all the ensuing requirements.

Caxton Street is very unique in Brisbane due to it's proximity to Suncorp Stadium. With this association the precincts high and low trade times fluctuate very dramatically with the crowds attending and leaving games/concerts at the Stadium. I would like to think this would be taken into account when considering Safe Night Area conditions for Caxton Street. Partricularly with regard to ID scanning times.

It would also be necessary to accurately define "The Caxton Street Precinct". With Hotels at Paddington, Ithaca and Normanby potentially outside the scope of the Safe Night Area, a very real disadvantage would be experienced by Caxton Street Traders. Indeed several of these late night Venues are closer to Suncorp Stadium than those in Caxton Street.

SUPPORT FOR SAFE NIGHT AREA

At our recent Caxton Street Precinct Liquor Accord meeting there was in principle, very high support for the Governments Strategy. All traders were happy with current QPS support and co-operation with OLGR, but were hopeful of some understanding of Caxton Street's unique situation. Most supported the introduction of ID scanners with several of the smaller licenses suggesting they would not open after midnight to avoid the expense of acquiring the scanners. In general it was agreed that the continued Police presence and support from organisations such as Chaplain Watch with recover services were the main areas to be considered. Mention was also made of the need for late night toilet facilities in the area.

## MANDATORY DRUG/ALCOHOL COUNSELLING

The Safe Night Out Strategy places emphasis on setting clear standards, education and increasing penalties. I believe anyone charged with anti-social behavior such as public nuisance, refusing to leave licensed premises or obstructing police should get some "skin" in the game.

By this I mean not only paying the increased fines, but also being required to attend mandatory counselling (either a 2 hour or 1/2 day course) thus making it a financial and personal obligation. Also enhancing the education and standard setting parameters of the strategy.

For what it is worth, these are my considerations of the Safe Night Out Strategy and if I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Faithfully,

Ross Farquhar  
Owner /Manager  
**THE CAXTON HOTEL**