

**From:** [E.D](#)  
**To:** [Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Committee Submission, Tackling Alcohol-fuelled Violence Legislation Amendment Bill 2015  
**Date:** Friday, 20 November 2015 5:51:46 PM

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Dear Committee,

A very curious bill title.

What about alcohol-fueled dance and song? Alcohol-fueled relaxation after a 12-hour shift? Alcohol-fueled compassion? Alcohol-fueled friendships and new mates? and alcohol-fueled love and lasting companionship?

Have you never become better friends with someone, or entered into a new business arrangement, based on late-night drinks?

Queenslanders who work late and socialise after work should not be treated as an underclass of people with no social options. Bars should stay open until the trains begin.

The safest place to be at night in a drinking area is inside a licensed premises. There are security guards, trained and qualified, who keep the peace at zero cost to the taxpayer (and who pay taxes themselves).

Every election it seems new MPs feel like violence in nightlife is an issue. Actually, its a non-issue, there is far more violence at the average school or sports field. I have worked in nightclubs before and after the lockout, and 24 hour cafe in the valley mall. We should be concentrating on what REALLY causes violence in drinking areas: Conflicts with staff after being refused entry, and conflicts between people who know each other over pre-existing issues (ie. those that a lockout would not solve).

Why frustrate customers more with a law refusing them entry? that's begging for conflict with bar staff.

Forcing honest bar owners to close their bars early helps noone. If it does so, please introduce me to the person who it helps.

It is clear from seeing this debate pop up every election cycle that forcing bars to close early is a lazy move by uncreative party members who just want to be seen to be doing something 'law and order' related. If you want to be seen to be doing something, why not sponsor free safe activities at night time? Why not sponsor social workers who approach obviously frustrated people and offer a kind ear (plenty of groups would do this for free)? or if we want to still be harsh on bar owners, why not mandate for security guards to have training in how to calm down frustrated people, and have them at the door of the bars? Or mandatory chest cameras on late night security guards?

And finally if the motivations for putting this bill forward were real and not a charade, why not shut the casinos at the same time? A double standard here makes you look very suspicious, and we notice.

Ultimately if you consider the reasons for the bill, and the impact it has on honest small business owners and those who want to meet their friends in a safe public space after 3am to enjoy music, you'll realise this 'knee jerk reaction' that happens every election cycle is inappropriate.

Having read the submissions from the past 3 times these licensing laws have been discussed, it seems people who have never set foot in a drinking establishment between 2am-5am seem to believe they know enough to make an opinion about the impact of these laws. One MP a few years ago in the parliamentary debate even mentioned that she she couldn't understand why people would want to drink out after 2am and "would just get a cab" if she realised she was out in the city on Saturday and it was already 2am. (If you tried to call the cab company they would have laughed at you and told you to wait in the 45-60 minute queue)

So while you could just hear these submissions, no doubt from the police union reps and others mouthing hearsay, and what sounds politically right to them at the time after watching Today Tonight, Why not speak to shift workers? or speak to DJs and security guards?

While they still have jobs.

In summary, my experience over 4 years working in Queensland nightlife in 2 cities and 5 establishments lead me to understand that earlier bar closing benefits no-one, and harms the most hard-working people in the economy. Nightlife would be safer is bars remained open and security guards remained at the doors - until public transport re-started in the morning. I know this from work and sober observation every weekend until 5am in the Gold Coast the 1 year before, and 1 year after, the 3am Gold Coast lockout, and the next year in Brisbane the year before, and year after, the state 3am lockout. At least a few bars in every nightlife area must be allowed, if not compelled, to remain open and accepting customers until the first bus or first train.

Kind Regards,  
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Former Night Worker

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