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## 1. PROPOSED LOCKOUT AND CLOSE FOR THE PUBS AND VENUES IN QUEENSLAND.

ChaplainWatch does not have a position on the close and lock out times. Nevertheless, ChaplainWatch has certain observations on the close and lock out times.

As a community service, working directly and reliably in Brisbane's Safe Night Out nighttime entertainment precincts, we would like to submit a range of observations worthy of consideration. These observations are well considered and derived from over 10 years of consistent work in the public spaces of the Valley, CBD and Caxton Streets.

Personally, I have worked almost every weekend (Friday/Saturday and Saturday/Sunday) since 2004. Subsequently, I believe I have a deep and discerning insight into the nighttime economy, aka Safe Night Out Precinct.

From my early observations I pioneered the NightWatch patrols, focusing on public safety in public spaces watching out for people when their good times go bad. From worldwide searches I believe this unique community service is, if not the first, it is near to the first to respond to the issues around the entertainment precincts overnight.

Then, with the support of the then State Government, ChaplainWatch in 2010 commenced NightSafe Rest and Recovery centre. This centre is more than a Chill Out Zone. It is a professional, first aid and medic centre responding to persons need sobering-up, first aid, problem solving and care and support.

With this credible résumé I believe I, personally, have something of worth and value to bring to the table.

We are a necessary service filling the gap between police, ambulance, and venue staff in the precinct. ChaplainWatch allows police and ambulance to focus on the 'big' issues whilst we perform the necessary work of helping those in need, at risk and in crisis, especially when good times go bad.

### **DISCLAIMER**

ChaplainWatch is not affiliated with any other organisation or outside entity, other than on a professional basis.

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## 2. CALL FOR A TOTAL NATIONAL PROHIBITION ON ALCOHOL

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**Proposal:** We humbly caution parliament not to repeat history.

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**Proposal:** We humbly submit that the proposed closing time legislation before the committee should not merely be a one-dimensional measure offered to address what is in fact a multidimensional problem.

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**Proposal:** That the committee take into serious consideration that every action has an equal and opposite reaction.

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**Proposal:** ChaplainWatch calls for a robust risk analysis to consider the unexpected results of the alcohol fuelled violence legislation.

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ChaplainWatch's considers that one sure way to overcome issues around 'alcohol-fuelled-violence' is to have a total national prohibition on alcohol.

However we are realists.

We understand the Australian culture. We recognise how rusted-on the Australian culture is to alcohol. And extreme drinking in Australia has been a cultural norm since settlement.

### **WE'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE**

*"Those who don't know history are destined to repeat it." Edmund Burke*

2005—Labor implemented the '17 Point Plan'

2010—Labor implemented the 'Drink Safe Precinct'

2015—Labor again is looking to respond to the issues around 'alcohol-fuelled violence'.

1910s -1960s—In a futile endeavour to lessen the effects of alcohol on society, all pubs and liquor stores etc. were forced to close by 6 pm. Rather than reduce alcohol consumption, these measures actually led to excessive drinking in the hour before closing time, which became known as the six o'clock swill.<sup>1</sup>

In "Alcohol Prohibition Was a Failure" by Mark Thornton July 17, 1991<sup>2</sup>, says:

*"National prohibition of alcohol (1920-33)—the "noble experiment"—was undertaken to reduce crime and corruption, solve social problems, reduce the tax burden created by prisons and poorhouses, and*

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<sup>1</sup> Alcohol in Australia: Issues and Strategies (PDF). Commonwealth of Australia. 2001. p.1. ISBN 0642503230. Retrieved 28 February 2013

<sup>2</sup> Policy Analysis N°. 157, "Alcohol Prohibition Was a Failure" by Mark Thornton July 17, 1991, Executive Summary [www.cato.org/publications/policy.../alcohol-prohibition-was-failure](http://www.cato.org/publications/policy.../alcohol-prohibition-was-failure)

*improve health and hygiene in America. The results of that experiment clearly indicate that it was a miserable failure on all counts. The evidence affirms sound economic theory, which predicts that prohibition of mutually beneficial exchanges is doomed to failure. The lessons of Prohibition remain important today... 'Although consumption of alcohol fell at the beginning of Prohibition, it subsequently increased'.*"

## **LEARNING FROM THE PAST LOOKING FORWARD TO THE FUTURE**

ChaplainWatch passionately desires to see real cultural and behavioural seismic shifts in alcohol (and drugs) use and abuse and violent behaviour in the nighttime entertainment precincts. But we question the wisdom of using a curfew model as the foundation to change cultural behaviour. As stated above, this has been done before and failed! — *'Although consumption of alcohol fell at the beginning of Prohibition, it subsequently increased.'*

1. We ask the committee to not be blindsided by the simple administration of laws and regulations to effect change.
  - 1.1. Governments have effected change in behaviour in a raft of cultural customs.
    - 1.1.1. Speeding
    - 1.1.2. Seat belts
    - 1.1.3. Litter
    - 1.1.4. Smoking, etc. etc.
  - 1.2. While great strides have been made in the above list, eternal vigilance is unfortunately necessary.
  - 1.3. In like manner, ChaplainWatch calls for the committee to forge a model that will change culture and behaviour to a tolerable level on going well-being.

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### 3. RELATED CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING THE LOCK-OUT CLOSE FOR THE PUBS AND VENUES IN QUEENSLAND.

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**Proposal:** ChaplainWatch submits that the committee seriously consider the economic, logistical, social and behavioural impacts that any changes are made to the current lockout and close times for the Safe Night Out Precincts.

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#### **ECONOMIC IMPACTS**

1. In the day/night times (6pm to 7am) on any given night in Queensland there are generally three (3) economic zones. (see attached 1)

Each economic zone is vital for State economics, employment, business, amusement, entertainment and society's culture in general.

##### 1.1. Evening Economy

1.1.1. This zone consists of retail, restaurant, small shops and business, cinemas, clubs, pubs and alcohol takeaway shops, etc.

##### 1.2. Nighttime Economy

1.2.1. This zone consists of clubs, pubs and alcohol takeaway shops, entertainment venues, live entertainment facilities, takeaway food outlets and 24 hours 'corner shops', etc.

##### 1.3. Morning Economy

1.3.1. This zone consists of coffee and breakfast shops, fitness facilities and public space/roadways fitness capacity, etc.

2. In the day/night times (6pm to 7am) there is currently an appropriate and acceptable overlap of the economic zones. (see Appendix 1)

2.1. For the Evening Economic Zone the current timings are working reasonably well, where the overlap of majority of patrons coming out to the Nighttime Economy (general 10 pm-11pm) do not impede greatly on the close of the restaurant trade.

**LOGISTICAL IMPACTS**

**Proposal:** Serious consideration is required pertaining to the logistics effecting transport for patrons entering and leaving the Entertainment Precincts.

1. Taxis Logistics

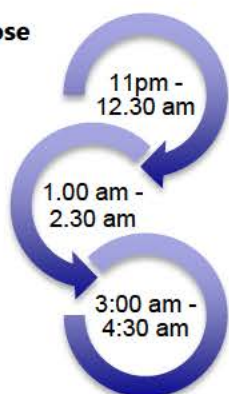
1.1. It takes a taxi, on an average, 60-90 minutes to do a turnaround.

1.1.1. It is assumed that this will begin to apply to Uber, as well.

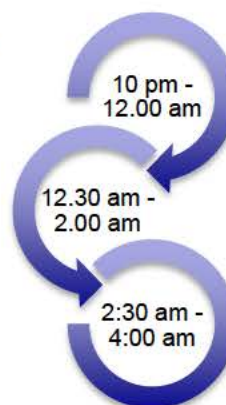
1.2. On a big night a taxi could do 3 average fairs from the entertainment precinct out to the suburbs and back.

1.2.1. (usually there is a 30 minute queue time to pick up the next fare.)

**At current 5am close**



**At proposed 3am close**



Note 1: the first trip out of the precinct will now commence around 12 am with last the ceasing of the rapid intoxication drinks.

Note 2: with a 1 am lockout there will be a shortage of taxis to meet the next group of exiting patrons.

Note 3: similarly there will be a shortage of taxis to respond to the 3 am close of drinks.

Note 4: if patrons are then encouraged to stay after drinks are stopped then the exit strategy of many will be lengthened with further effects on the logistics.

2. Bus and Train Logistics

2.1. Appropriate consideration is also required to bus and train services.

2.1.1. Transport in and out of the precincts is vital to the good management of the precincts.

2.1.2. From recollection, there was strong pushback by transport unions over overtime and work times.

### **SOCIAL AND BEHAVIOURAL IMPACTS**

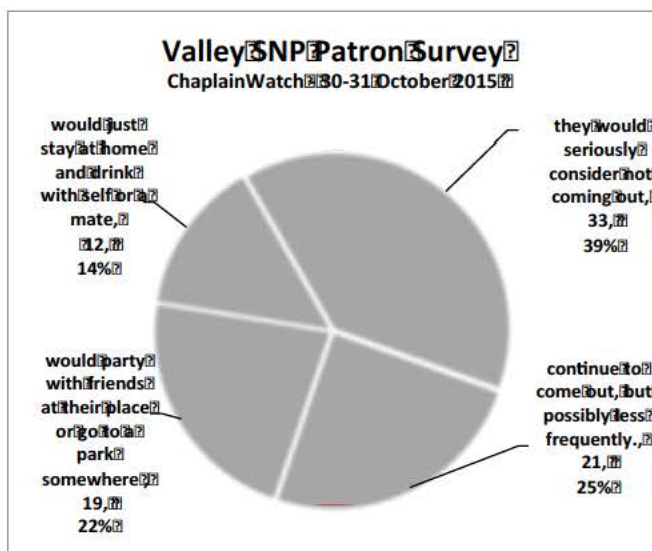
1. While there is a worthy outcome expectation woven into this policy, we foresee that there can/will be other ramifications, where the cure could end up being as bad as the remedy.

2. Some of the desired outcomes may be acceptable, but some may not, e.g.

2.1. What will the 30,000 regular punters do and where will they go, if they choose not to come out to the proposed new regulated Safe Night Out precincts?

2.1.1. Of a small survey (85) that ChaplainWatch did with random punters in the Valley Safe Night Precinct recently, (30-31 October 2015)

- 72% said they were not aware of the lockout and cease drinks legislation proposals. (61)
- 39% said, now they were aware, that they would seriously consider not coming out (53)
- 25% would continue to come out, but possibly less frequently. (33)
- 22% said they would party with friends at their place or go to a park somewhere (41)
- 14% said they would just stay at home and drink with self or a mate. (18)



2.2. How will the emergency services, e.g. police and ambulance, manage incidents that are not confined to the 15 Safe Night Precinct entertainment precincts throughout the State?

2.3. What if we return to the bad-old-days of 'sly pop-up events' or the ubiquitous neighbour parties, due to the patrons choosing not coming out to a Safe Night Out precinct?

2.4. How can under age drinking be regulated?

2.5. How will the government handle a 'coward punch' incident if and when it happens outside the 15 precincts? Or if it happens before the 3am cease drinks?

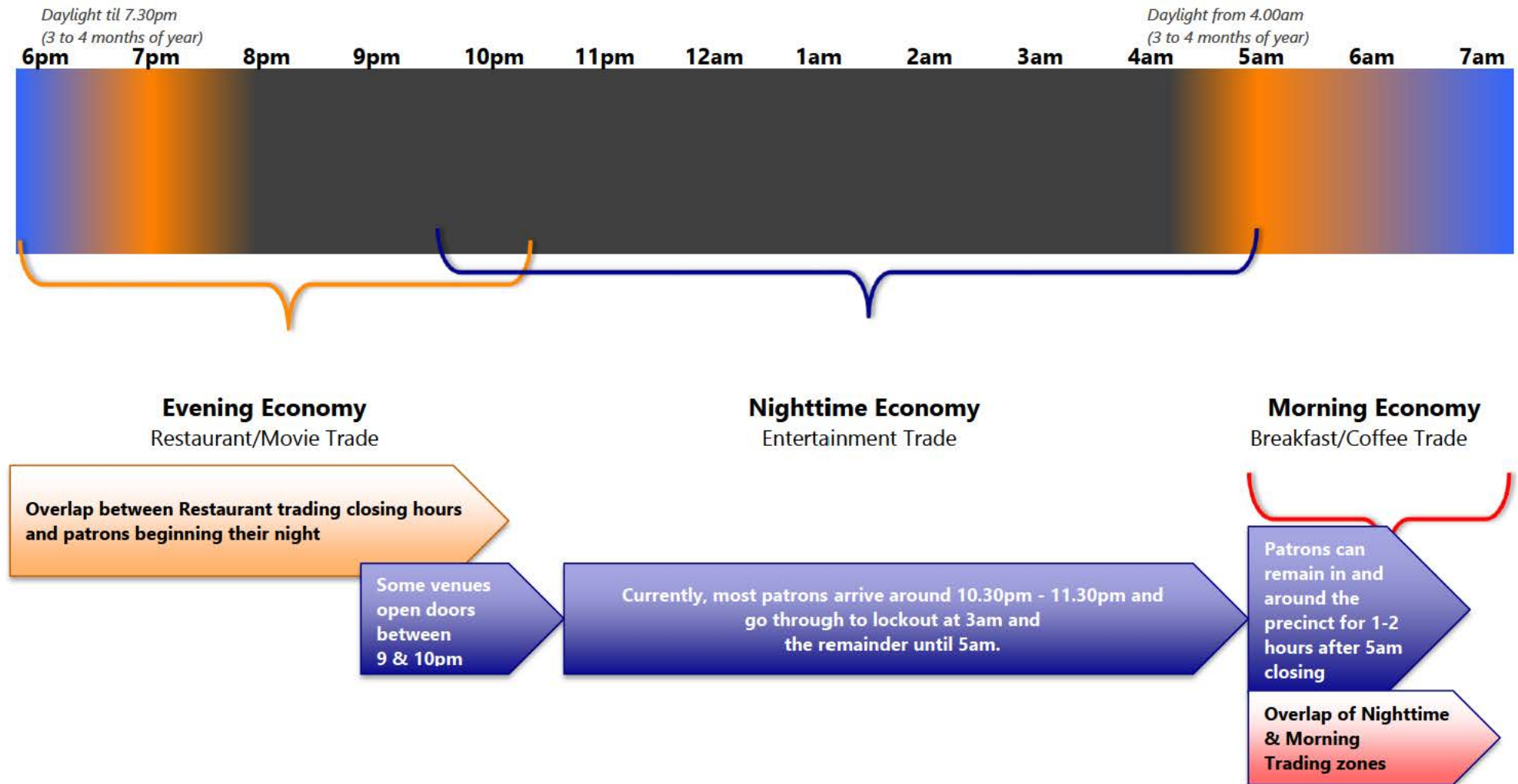
2.6. How can society help change the problematic culture of alcohol and other drug misuse?

3. It is the 'unknown outcome' that ChaplainWatch asks the committee to seriously review.



# APPENDIX 1

## CURRENT OVERNIGHT TRADING MATRIX (EVENING / NIGHTTIME / MORNING)





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## 4. "ALCOHOL FUELLED VIOLENCE"

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**Proposal:** That the committee call for the pervasive descriptive phrase "alcohol fuelled violence" be disassembled.

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1. While the phrase has been an effective 'war-cry' there is serious concern that 'alcohol fuelled violence' has become a syndrome.

**Definition of syndrome:** *a group of signs and symptoms that occur together and characterize a particular abnormality or condition; a set of concurrent things (as emotions or actions) that usually form an identifiable pattern.*

**Medical Definition of syndrome:** *a group of signs and symptoms that occur together and characterize a particular abnormality.<sup>3</sup>*

- 1.1. Our concern is that AFV has been so bound together that it has become an "epidemic". In doing so it is becoming difficult or even impossible to cut through to real causes.
- 1.2. Once it became a 'syndrome' entered the public lexicon, whether via a medical diagnoses or a shorthand sound bite, it framed a universal perception, and it has taken on a life of its own. Subsequently, medical/psychological/sociological disciplines began to investigate "alcohol-fuelled-violence" as if it were a single disorder.
- 1.3. And as such it consequently forced policy makers to follow suite.
- 1.4. The problem arises that while alcohol can be clearly associated with violence, not all alcohol abuse leads to violence and as a vise versa not all acts of violence are due to alcohol misuse.

Alcohol use and abuse is one major problem that requires every effort to address.

Violence, regardless of the reason, is another major concern that requires every effort to address.

- 1.5. Welding both issues together will isolate the necessary and accurate understanding of the issue and any development of effective responses.
  - 1.5.1. Two examples:

**First:** *During 1980s and 90s there was an epidemic in Australia that cause massive sick leave and litigation, especially in the public service. It was called 'RSI'. Any and all pains*

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<sup>3</sup> [www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/syndrome](http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/syndrome)

*and aches that could be associated with the repetitive use of equipment were labeled repetitive strain injury.*

*It became so rampant that a summit was called to consider this phenomenon. A lateral response with instituted. The medical profession began to stop diagnosing RSI and began to label it for what the injury was actually.*

*Tennis elbow. Carpal tunnel syndrome. etc.*

*The result was amazing. The epidemic ceased.*

**Second:** *More recently the term 'Glassing' entered the popular lexicon. Again it raised word pictures in the public's mind. Visions of bottles being broken in a bar brawl and peoples faces being horrifically scarred would be the predominate thought.*

*However officially "glassing" was being used to describe incident where a person stood on broken glass, to a trip and fall onto glass, to an accidental glass injury.*

*So the term 'glassing' has been replaced with 'injury with glass' to 'glass used as a weapon' etc.*

The outcome has been

- a reduction in media/public hysteria due to inappropriate word usage.
- a more correct understanding and treatment of the real issues.

1.6. The expression "alcohol-fuelled-violence", we hold, falls into the same phenomena.

2. We believe the parliament must:

2.1. Aggressively address alcohol including its use and misuse.

2.2. Aggressively address violence in all its manifestations.

## 5. ABOUT CHAPLAINWATCH

ChaplainWatch is a stand-alone not-for-profit charity. We are an Incorporated Association with the Office of Fair Trading, and are constituted under the Rules of ChaplainWatch Inc™, and accordingly managed by a Management Committee.

Laterally conceived and pioneered in Brisbane, we are a community service whose focus is on public safety in public spaces—overnight, in and around the entertainment precincts.

Since 2004, each Friday and Saturday night from 11pm till early morning, the NightWatch Chaplains proactively patrol the CBD, Fortitude Valley and Caxton Street precincts, watching out for anyone in crisis, at risk, or in need. From July 2010 we extended our service delivery to cover Thursday and Sunday nights as well.

### **NIGHTWATCH**

Through mobile and foot patrols our volunteers position themselves to be there when it matters. We call it NightWatch and we are the NightWatch Chaplains.

We offer a unique, non-authoritarian, proactive, intentional intervention service, which encompasses crisis intervention, conflict resolution, frontline first aid, victim support, problem solving, care and support and welfare assistance. These provide a powerful positive presence when it matters – *“watching out for you when the good times go bad.”*

### **NIGHTSAFE**

In December 2010, by request of the then State Government, ChaplainWatch was asked to fill the gap with a new Rest and Recovery service.

We call it NightSafe Rest and Recovery Centre. Located in China Town, Fortitude Valley, we offer a sobering-up space with up to 10 beds for intoxicated persons (alcohol &/or drugs) assessed as not needing emergency hospitalisation.

This service operates 11pm-4am every Friday and Saturday night, and all public holidays, as well.

### **CHAPLAINWATCH HISTORY**

In 2004, 2005 a series of violent acts took place in the city of Brisbane. One of these violent acts led to the death of a young man. This senseless and incongruous assault became the touchstone for a city's collective anxiety. The label 'violence in the city' was superglued to it and as a result our city had a 'violence perception' epidemic.

Politicians were cornered. Subsequently a raft of responses was shoehorned into the now infamous Premier's '17-point Brisbane City Safety Action Plan'. Each of the 17 points of the plan blend into a grand initiative—

that is save for one glaring blind spot. Come out at night onto streets of the Brisbane CBD, Fortitude Valley and Caxton Street after midnight on any Friday and Saturday night especially and you will be confronted with thousand's of people in a range of alcohol and other drugs conditions.

Point 18, if there were an eighteenth point in the 17 Point Plan, should read 'implement a community service where by the mass of revellers who fill the vast public spaces of the city are watched over and assisted, especially when their good times go bad'.

But history states there is only a 17 Point Plan.

Regardless, ChaplainWatch's NightWatch Project was formed to fill this evident void. Under the pioneering leadership of Rev Lance Mergard, a group of 3 men and 1 woman launched ChaplainWatch in early 2004 and they created, from the ground up, the NightWatch Project.

From an unassuming beginning NightWatch has grown into this significant rapid response crisis intervention and uniquely configured community service to anyone, anywhere in the Brisbane CBD, Fortitude Valley and Caxton Street—**at night**.

**NightWatch** charter—watching out for you when your good times go bad.

