

Submission by:

Timothy Martin on behalf of:
SinCity Nightclub
22 Orchid Avenue, Surfers Paradise
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[REDACTED]

Dear Committee,

I am writing this submission on behalf of SinCity Nightclub and staff.

We have many concern about the [Tackling Alcohol-fuelled Violence Legislation Amendment Bill 2015](#)

Firstly I am concerned about the number of staff that are going to lose their jobs from our company. The industry has already had a tough number of years and if the Sydney model is anything to go by then we surely are headed for the same fate with many venues closing down and those that remain left to struggle with minimal staff.

We are an international tourist destination and with the new lockout laws we are definitely not enticing anyone to come here, in fact we are sending a message that this an unsafe place to visit even though it is a minority who do the wrong thing. We all have a vested interest in curbing alcohol fuelled violence but we are punishing everyone with the new proposed laws. We are looking for tougher penalties for the offenders as we often we read about offenders getting no jail time and nothing but a fine. There should also be higher penalties for those who assault any authorities whilst they are doing their duty.

We are concerned about the displacement of police if the proposed bill is passed. We have a high concentration of late night venues in the Surfers Paradise precinct and if suburban venues are allowed to trade later, then the already strained police force will be spread further into the community and not be able to cope with the numbers in the area they are needed most.

The safest place for patrons is in an entertainment precinct with qualified security guards in a controlled and heavily regulated environment with the correct ratio of police. We fear that many of the young patrons will not be ready to finish their night when the restrictions come in to play and will end up in hotel rooms and house parties which are unregulated and unsupervised. We feel that the number of sexual assaults on young female will dramatically rise as will drug use. We also believe that the police and emergency services will further be strained dealing with out of control parties in the suburbs.

Transport is already strained at peak times in the Surfers Paradise precinct and now to lock people out and close early we will be forcing large numbers of people onto the street all at once. This will only place further strain on the transport network but we are concerned that this will cause more problems from frustrated patron waiting in long taxi queues. If we can't remove patrons quick enough from the precinct than there will be increased violence.

There is a major concern that the new bill does not include any special facility licences. It is well recorded that the casinos have a long history of violence but are protected from the new bill. There

are stats to suggest that when NSW changed the lockout laws that the violence at the casino actually increased yet they are not included in the new bill.

There are concerns about venues allowed to provide gaming past 3am. Could somebody please explain what community benefit could possibly be created by this. As reported in the Gold Coast Bulletin on Wednesday 27th December, there is already major problems with gambling in the community but the bill is going to extend pokies trading hours.

In the Surfers Paradise precinct, the late night traders have banded together through the Surfers Paradise Licenced Venues Association to create a number of safety initiatives that have had positive effects on the local community. Some of those include:

- Radio network with late night venues, police and council radio centre
- Rest and Recovery Services
- Taxi marshals

The majority of this bill is anti-competitive in favour of the casino. How can you restrict a precinct with a 1am lockout but you can enter a premises 500 metres up the road or even better you can go to the casino and drink all night? The entertainment precincts were created to handle large numbers of patrons in a controlled environment. Why would people travel into the precinct when they can stay at their local until 2am. Surely the government sees that gambling is a greater community problem than alcohol fuelled violence. It's time for the minority who are spoiling it for everyone to be punished in such a way that it is actually a deterrent for them to commit these crimes.

Kind Regards,

Timothy Martin

<http://www.goldcoastbulletin.com.au/news/crime-court/coward-punch-fells-filmmaker-at-jupiters-casino/story-fnje8bkv-1227635921640>

<http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/star-casino-may-be-the-most-violent-venue-but-exempt-from-restrictions-20150420-1morb6.html>

<http://www.goldcoastbulletin.com.au/news/crime-court/brawls-sexual-assaults-drugs-and-theft-the-shocking-incidents-revealed-at-gold-coasts-jupiters-casino/story-fnje8bkv-1226774503168>

<http://www.goldcoastbulletin.com.au/news/gold-coast/gold-coast-punters-lost-309-million-on-the-pokies-in-the-past-12-months/news-story/ef043e62b5dee6b6c97d4c68162c41d0>