



To:

The Research Director  
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

## **Tackling Alcohol-fuelled Violence Legislation Amendment Bill 2015**

### **Submission of The Flying Cock, Longtime Restaurant, Rick Shores**

#### *Introduction*

The Tackling Alcohol-fuelled Violence Legislation Amendment Bill 2015 (“the bill”) was introduced into the Queensland Parliament on 12 November 2015. It was thereafter referred to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee for investigation and consideration, with the Committee’s report due to Parliament on 8 February 2016.

The Committee has invited public submissions on the bill for its consideration, and this submission is being made in response to that invitation.

#### *Précis*

The bill represents a further and unnecessary intervention by Government into the trading parameters for liquor licensed businesses. It is predicated on a series of false propositions, vis, that:

Queensland has a special problem with liquor-related violence

Current regulatory and policy settings are not adequate; and

Harsh interventions are required, despite the likely social and economic costs

Both official data from Queensland and other jurisdictions, as well as anecdotal evidence from numerous sources shows that Queensland’s entertainment precincts have far lower rates of relevant crime than recognised trouble spots in places like Sydney, that Queensland is well-advanced in its co-operative approach to the management of entertainment precincts, and that the suite of measures which have been put in place are producing reductions in the already low rates of relevant crime within those precincts.

Accordingly, the Committee should recommend to Parliament that the reductions in trading hours and the interventions regarding the sale of certain



types of drinks and liquor products not proceed in the form proposed, and that the range of measures already in place be continued.

As members of the Valley Liquor Accord, The Safe Night Fortitude Valley Precinct Association, and Our Nightlife Queensland, we would echo the recommendations and feedback made in their submissions to the parliamentary inquiry.

In summary, this is what is required:

- Local solutions for local areas
- Education and culture change via smart, modern and industry partnered campaigns
- Rest and recovery services
- Transport design and initiatives associated with this
- Local engagement groups to bring stakeholders together
- Drug and alcohol referral pathways
- Use of the current Liquor Act to manage trading hours and lockouts, and targeting of individual problem businesses (rather than all businesses) with harsher actions and penalties
- Implementation panel reporting to the Attorney-General and Premier

### *Submission*

The directors of our business have all primarily grown up exploring business opportunities in and around Fortitude Valley and other late night precincts across the country. This has been in areas as diverse (yet related to the night time industry) such as DJing, promoting events, event management, venue management, marketing, catering, project management, production, and overall conceptual design for hospitality and lifestyle ventures.

Thanks to the long standing and vibrant late night culture we have always enjoyed in Queensland over the last decade, we have developed businesses including an inner city hotel, nightclub, and two fine dining award-winning restaurants.

We simply would not have been able to evolve our businesses into what they are today without the exposure and experience of late night culture in a place as unique as Fortitude Valley.

It is often noted in discussions around the proposed trading hour windbacks and lockouts that only a few businesses will be directly affected. This is simply not true. Whilst our restaurants operate independently of our late night interests, we simply would not have had the ability to invest and develop these ventures without success in late night culture.

The late night trading hours amongst venues breeds a diverse and exciting alternative culture for cities like Brisbane. A large portion of our networks and client base at all businesses, especially the restaurants, are all highly engaged in alternative culture, and the positive social outcomes of this are plain to see.



It is this very culture that has helped transform Brisbane into a world-class city, with a multitude of options for people of all walks of life. It is disappointing This very culture is equally important to the fabric of Brisbane and developing and attracting talent to the city as places like QAGGOMA, Judith Wright Centre, and events like Brisbane Festival. Similarly food and drink culture in Brisbane owes much to the entrepreneurs who have developed late night bars and venues, and we would not have the diversity and vision we see in places like weekly markets across the city, and new and exciting food ventures outside of the Valley.

The following are some basic statistics that will give the Committee a sense of our business:

a) Average number of drinks purchased per person across our venues per week: 3-4 per person.

b) Number of employees across our venues: Approximately 100.

Approximate 25% cut to the labour budget if proposals go ahead. Approximately 15 staff would be let go out of the entertainment section of the business.

c) Total amount spent on entertainment: \$400,000

To be honest, the entertainment section of the business will become unfeasible, as a result the entertainment budget would reduce almost completely. This would result in lost income for local musicians. It also means that world renowned artists who we currently host would not tour Brisbane.

Yours Sincerely,

Xinyu Li (Frank)  
Director  
23-12-2015