



23rd December 2015

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

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input to the Committee's consideration of the *Tackling Alcohol-Fuelled Violence Legislation Amendment Bill 2015*

- Caxton Street Precinct Liquor Accord (CSPLA) provides cautious support to 3am closures across the board.
- Caxton Street Precinct Liquor Accord (CSPLA) does not and cannot support 1am lockouts and request this measure be kept in the abeyance until the effect of the 3am closures is evaluated.
- As an alternative to the "Newcastle" style trading conditions proposed by the Bill after midnight, the Caxton Street Precinct Liquor Accord (CSPLA) supports the expansion of existing late trading Brisbane City Council conditions introduced by the Beattie Labor Government to apply state-wide for all premises trading after 12midnight. This includes clear standard requirements for late trading licensed venues including CCTV, licensed crowd controllers, restrictions on happy hours and incident registers in a form already developed and accepted by industry.
<https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industry/liquor-gaming/liquor/compliance-licensees/brisbane-city-council>
- Caxton Street Precinct Liquor Accord (CSPLA) does not support banning the sale of high-alcohol-content drinks
- The Removal of all requirements for networked ID scanning requirements is supported. ID scanning should remain a venue by venue decision.
- Allow the mandatory RSA, approved managers licensing and the new "unduly intoxicated" definition time to be implemented and demonstrate their effect in a reduced trading hours environment.

We cannot align ourselves with a Policy introduced in December 2015 aimed at tackling so called alcohol-fuelled violence as a current issue of such magnitude that it potentially puts at risk thousands of jobs in the night time and tourism economy. Only weeks earlier in November 2015 the Queensland Police Service (QPS) released its Annual Statistical Review that states in part as follows:-

"Over the ten year period 2005/06 to 2014/15, the State has recorded decreases in the rate of offences against the person (30%) and offences against property (29%) which has resulted in a decrease of 12% in the overall crime rate. This trend has been repeated in 2014/15 where the total decrease in the rate of reported crime is 5%. This follows a decrease in 2013/14 of 11% in the rate of reported crime.

Decreases were reported in the remaining categories of liquor (excluding drunkenness) (12%), stock related offences (14%), and traffic and related offences (9%). Gaming racing and betting offences recorded no change".

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The explanatory notes rely strongly on "evidence" from Newcastle and Sydney where similar provisions were implemented in response to high levels of violence. Assault rates in our Capital City without this proposed legislation are already 63% lower than Newcastle *after* implementation of similar draconian laws.

Fair comparison statistics drawn from accurate QPS and NSW BOCSAR Statistics demonstrate as follows:

- Brisbane Police District Assault Rate FY15 = 256.8 assaults/100000 people
- Sydney LGA Assault Rate FY15 = 1652.8 assaults/100000 people
- Newcastle LGA Assault Rate FY15 = 700.7 assaults/100000 people

The Queensland Liquor & Tourism industries are a big provider of jobs, especially youth jobs in an environment where the national unemployment rate for youth aged 15 to 24 years hovers above 13 per cent – a level not experienced in this country since the early 2000s. The existing youth jobs in the Hospitality sector are too important to risk.

CSPLA invite the Government to reconsider this Bill and further consult with this Industry so that a sustainable position can be achieved. Even a trial of these provisions is akin to throwing an egg in the air, it may land on a pillow but if it lands on the harsh concrete we will not be able to undo the damage caused to thousands of jobs and our international tourism reputation. Victoria trialled lockouts and abandoned them so why does the Government's "evidence" rely so strongly on NSW when alternate options are so readily available.

CSPLA proposes the following:-

- Deletion of the proposed 2am closing time and replaced with a 3am cease of the sale of liquor for all premises. Thus the 3am lockout would no longer be required.
- Deletion of the 1am lockout/3am close for precincts.
- A State-wide approach to implementing the type of conditions imposed by the Brisbane City Council requiring, amongst other things, mandatory CCTV, security ratios, and drink promotion restrictions on all venues trading after 12 midnight State-wide. These conditions are already in force and should now be applied across Queensland.
- Removal of all mandatory ID scanning provisions from the Liquor Act and inclusion of a framework in the Act, that supports the voluntary use of this technology, with respect to privacy protections and choice, based on their own risk management.

Our compromise maintains a balance that strengthens provisions for late-night trading venues, like Bars and Nightclubs, to conform to mandatory safety measures, whilst targeting the perpetrators of violence in our towns and cities.

Yours sincerely



Sarosh Mehta
Chairman

