



Mr Chris Whiting MP
Member for Bancroft
Chair, State Development and Regional Industries Committee
By email: SDRIC@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Whiting MP,

Justice Legislation (COVID-19 Emergency Response — Permanency) Amendment Bill 2021

We thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the State Development and Regional Industries Committee's Inquiry into the *Justice Legislation (COVID-19 Emergency Response — Permanency) Amendment Bill 2021*.

About the Brewers Association

The Brewers Association is the peak body representing Australia's leading beer makers and, more broadly, beer drinkers across Australia. It is a leading voice for sensible, responsible and workable policy solutions for our sector and the community.

The membership comprises the nation's premier beer producers, makers of premium beers and the most iconic brands. Its members, Carlton & United Breweries (CUB), Lion and Coopers constitute more than 79 per cent of all beer sales in Australia.

As a key manufacturer together, BAA members employ more than 13,500 Australians in brewing, sales, professional services and logistics in communities right across Australia. Brewers Association members are committed to contributing to the country's economic recovery and securing great long-term jobs right across the supply chain from farming to hospitality.

Queensland is the largest producer of beer in the country with over 500 million litres of production in 2018/19. Our members have major breweries at XXXX in Brisbane and Yatala on the Gold Coast producing brands including Great Northern and XXXX. They also have fast growing smaller breweries including Balter on the Gold Coast and Eumundi on the Sunshine Coast.

Beer makes a significant contribution to Queensland's economy. Our latest figures show that beer production directly generated almost \$2 billion to Queensland's economy with almost 5000 jobs in the State directly supported by beer production or its supply chain.

Liquor reforms

The Brewers Association does not support the proposed Liquor reforms in their current form.

The Brewers Association supported the Queensland Government's temporary changes during the COVID-19 Pandemic to allow licensed restaurants and cafés operating under a subsidiary on-premises licence (meals) to sell takeaway liquor as of right within appropriate trading hours. We note that the sale of alcohol during that time did not discriminate between categories.

We submit the temporary changes that were adopted to support café and restaurant businesses be adopted permanently. The current position of the Government to allow only the sale of wine is not supported nor is the Government's justification for doing so.

We submit there is no evidence to suggest beer provides a "greater risk of adverse intoxication" or leads to more alcohol related harm than wine. In fact, the two biggest selling beers in the country, both produced in Queensland – XXXX and Great Northern – have an Alcohol by Volume (ABV) of 3.5 per cent. Indeed, no, low or mid-strength beer makes up more than 25 per cent of beer sales nationally. Even a "full strength beer" sits at somewhere between 4 and 5 per cent ABV, where as a bottle of wine for example, maybe 12 to 14 per cent or thereabouts.

We note the following excerpt from the Explanatory Notes for the legislation:

- *"given some beer and pre-mixed alcoholic drinks with spirits have a very high percentage of alcohol by volume, therefore posing a greater risk of adverse intoxication, these types of liquor will not be able to be sold for takeaway."*

We do not believe there is any evidence for this assertion and we therefore ask that it be removed from the Notes.

We further note that no other jurisdiction in the country has sought to discriminate against categories in this manner. Indeed, there is presently a Bill in the Victorian Parliament, the *Liquor Control Reform Amendment Bill 2021*, that provides what we believe to be the best and fairest outcome. That provision reads:

- *"the condition that the supply of liquor to a person for a takeaway adult meal or delivery adult meal must not be more than 750 millilitres capacity in the case of wine or six containers of not more than 375 millilitres capacity each in the case of beer, cider or pre-mixed spirits"*

We note that this provision includes all categories and provides the most responsible limits on purchase.

We believe that if temporary measures are to be made permanent, we suggest that the Victorian proposal be adopted. The Sunshine State is Australia's beer capital – home to the two biggest beers in the country XXXX and Great Northern, among numerous craft breweries throughout the state. The idea that those, and other responsibly consumed, beers would not be available to Queenslanders through the proposed license, but that two bottles of wine would be, is – in our view – wrong.

Although we do not benefit directly from the Queensland Government's Craft Beer Strategy, we acknowledge it and share the concerns raised by the Independent Brewers Association. Again, we thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the Committee's Inquiry. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me on [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely



John Preston
Chief Executive Officer