



Speech by

# Hon. Andrew Fraser

MEMBER FOR MOUNT COOT-THA

Hansard Thursday, 14 February 2008

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## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Liquor Licensing

**Hon. AP FRASER** (Mount Coot-tha—ALP) (Treasurer) (10.02 am): As the Premier has outlined this morning, it is imperative that every person who holds a liquor licence has experienced, resilient and responsible management practices in place to guarantee the wellbeing of staff and patrons alike. Holding a liquor licence is not a God-given right; it is a privilege and with that privilege comes a raft of responsibilities. Both management and patrons do not have a right to check out of society once they walk inside a licensed premises.

Today, I present to the House a combined regulatory impact statement/draft public benefit test on Queensland's liquor reforms, which represents the final stage of this government's sweeping review of the Liquor Act, the findings and recommendations of which were released by the Premier and me last December. This document, which is now available to the industry, members of the House and anyone in the community with an interest, sets out our detailed proposals. The proposals include an overhaul—a streamlining—of Queensland's current liquor licensing system. It offers a system of licensing that will be simpler and easier to administer. The current short-term permits will be replaced by annual licences and a new licence that will cater for small boutique bars and wine bars will be introduced.

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Treasury consultation paper titled 'Regulatory Impact Statement/Draft Public Benefit Test for public consultation in response to the Queensland Liquor Reforms'.

Importantly, the findings address operating hours for licensed premises, including the implementation of a new elevated risk permit for those establishments that want to trade outside of the standard hours of 10 am to midnight, specifically between midnight and 3 am and then an additional elevated risk permit for between 3 am and 5 am. It proposes a winding back of early opening. The introduction of annual liquor licence renewal fees based on the risk that each licence presents will ensure that licensees contribute appropriately to the ongoing costs of administering, managing and regulating the sale and consumption of liquor.

This year we will also launch a major, hard-hitting public campaign on the dangers of binge drinking. Mandatory training requirements, a manager's licence, giving legislative recognition to liquor accords and a ministerial banning power on irresponsible products complete a balanced approach that ensures ongoing community safety.

This process of reform identifies improved options for the responsible sale and supply of alcohol in this state. Those options ensure that management and engagement with the liquor regulator in Queensland is simple, effective, reduces red tape and delivers a system that is beneficial to the industry and the community alike.

I want to acknowledge in particular the constructive role of the industry in working through the details of our reforms. I encourage all interested Queenslanders, after reading the proposals contained in the document, to make a submission. Submissions close on 11 March. To do so will ensure that Queensland's liquor regulation framework will lead the country in addressing the cause, rather than the symptom, of alcohol misuse and abuse.