




Speech By  
**Ann Leahy**

**MEMBER FOR WARREGO**

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Record of Proceedings, 2 March 2017

### **LIQUOR AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (5.39 pm): I rise to speak to the Liquor and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I wish to raise some issues in relation to this bill. I want to tell a story about how it has affected some of the businesses in my electorate and explain the further effects this legislation will have on a particular family run business due to the changes to the one-off temporary extended trading hours permits. The Tackling Alcohol-Fuelled Violence Legislation Amendment Act 2016 included amendments which, from 1 July 2016, reduced available liquor service hours to 2 am statewide and 3 am in Queensland's safe night precincts. It did this not only in the precincts but also in other areas. There have been very adverse effects on the Club Hotel Motel in Roma in my electorate. I wish to read to the House the correspondence I have received from Chris Van't Hof, the managing director of Club Hotel Motel Roma. It states—

Following the 'Tackling Alcohol-Fuelled Violence Legislation Amendment Act 2016' coming into effect on 1 July 2016, our hotel has been dramatically affected financially. On 29 January 2016, our hotel made application to the Office of Liquor & Gaming Regulation (OLGR) for approval to operate until 3:00 am on Friday and Saturday nights in order to provide musical entertainment for the residents of Roma.

The overall costs associated with this additional one (1) hour trading application until 3:00 am on Friday and Saturday made to OLGR was in the vicinity of \$35,000. The application was advertised for public comment without any objections or comments received from the local residents.

A specific acoustic sound proof room was constructed well inside the hotel premises for entertainment, had been operating for a number of years without receiving any complaints.

Even though OLGR required Crowd Controllers to be employed for late trading, the hotel has always exceeded the minimum requirement to ensure a safe and pleasant environment for the patrons and local residents.

An OLGR approved Acoustical Engineer from Brisbane prepared an Entertainment Noise Assessment to ensure that the amenity of the local residents was not affected by any patron or entertainment noise emanation from the premises.

The hotel operates forty (40) CCTV cameras inside and outside the hotel premises, as well as an "ID-Tect" scanning system (cost \$10,000) which operates on a nation-wide basis and immediately identifies any person trying to enter the premises, who has false or incorrect ID, having been banned from any other licensed premises.

This system was a proactive safety move by the hotel and has been effective on numerous occasions. The state of the art CCTV system cost \$250,000.

The hotel has far exceeded the minimum standards in providing late night entertainment for a number of years and has won every award from the local Council for safe night entertainment.

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As previously mentioned the hotel spent in the vicinity of \$35,000 in obtaining the extended trading on Friday and Saturday nights until 3:00 am. We can apply to OLGR for twelve (12) nights per year for extended trading hours until 3:00 am and must pay a fee of \$762-00, whereas we have already paid the Annual license Fee of \$4,871-00 for trading from 12:00 am until 2:00 am.

We provided regular entertainment for the benefit of the residents in Roma, it was controlled for the safety and enjoyment of customers and there was no adverse effect on the amenity of the general area.

Due to the reduction of the hotel's trading house, we have found it necessary to reduce staff working hours as we can only afford to operate one (1) night each week.

It is obvious that Regional Queensland has been dramatically disadvantaged in not being able to form a 'safe night precinct' and having our trading hours reduced until 2:00 am.

We have already relinquished our 1am licence from Sunday to Thursday nights, and will need to reevaluate our current 2am licence as it is now becoming unviable to open. We need that extra hour to make any profit.

Therefore, it is requested you give favorable consideration to allowing the hotel to continue to trade until 3:00 am on Friday and Saturday nights.

That is signed by Chris Van't Hof, the managing director of Club Hotel Motel. I table for the information of the House a copy of the liquor licence issued by the Palaszczuk Labor government in July 2015. This clearly shows that the Club Hotel Motel in Roma was able to trade from 10 am to 3 am Friday and Saturday. I also table a copy of the current liquor licence issued by the Palaszczuk Labor government in August 2016.

*Tabled paper:* Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation liquor licences issued to the Club Hotel Motel Roma [\[353\]](#).

This clearly shows that the Club Hotel Motel in Roma has had their trading hours unfairly and unjustly cut back to 2 am on Friday and Saturday. There was no compensation. There was no pro rata refund for the \$35,000 outlaid for acoustic reports, formal applications and consultants to liquor licensing. There was no apology and no response to the numerous letters written to the Attorney-General about this issue. Chris Van't Hof wrote to the minister's office on 21 September 2016. I wrote to the minister's office on 28 September 2016 on this matter, and again on 21 November 2016 and again on 13 January 2017. The federal member for Maranoa, David Littleproud, wrote on 22 February 2017 asking for the Attorney-General to meet with Mr Van't Hof about this matter. I table for the information of the House copies of these letters.

*Tabled paper:* Correspondence, various dates, regarding the Tackling Alcohol-Fuelled Violence Legislation Amendment Act 2016 and the Club Hotel Motel Roma [\[354\]](#).

To date, there has been no response to Mr Van't Hof or me or the federal member on this issue. Minister, how many other family run businesses like the Club Hotel Motel have had their trading hours cut back in Queensland? These small businesses will now have a double hit with the tightening of the temporary late-night extended hours permit regime from 12 permits back to six permits per calendar year. The legislation also restricts the issue of permits to no more than one permit per month. There goes the second permit for the picnic races; there goes the second permit for Easter for the Club Hotel Motel. They will now have to demonstrate that these are special events over multiple days. That is more red tape, more paperwork and retrospective laws costing jobs for a family run business that has already been hit hard by this Labor government.

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Ms LEAHY:** Non-government members do not support the changes to the one-off temporary extended trading hours permits—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Millar): Member for Logan, the member for Warrego is not taking your interjections. Could you cease your interjections and allow us to hear her please.

**Ms LEAHY:** Non-government members do not support the changes to the one-off temporary extended trading hours permits as they are retrospective and complicate the process far more than it needs to be. The fact is that this legislation is full of retrospective policy decisions. Retrospective legislation makes it very difficult for businesses to succeed and employ more Queenslanders. Furthermore, it is no way to reduce alcohol related violence.

Minister, will the government compensate the Club Hotel Motel for the \$35,000 which they invested in the application process for a 3 am licence that was issued by this government, or will the government reinstate their 3 am licence? I would like to hear a commitment in the House from the Attorney-General in this debate that the government will respond to the Club Hotel Motel's correspondence, my correspondence and the federal member for Maranoa's correspondence by the close of the debate tonight. An apology and a compensation cheque would also be appropriate. The Attorney-General has been more than tardy with her correspondence on this matter. The Palaszczuk Labor government's treatment of this family run business in my electorate and jobs in regional Queensland is absolutely appalling.