




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

Record of Proceedings, 26 November 2020

LIQUOR (ARTISAN LIQUOR) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (2.50 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Liquor Act 1992 to support and regulate the emerging craft beer and artisan spirits industries. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Liquor (Artisan Liquor) Amendment Bill 2020 [248](#).

Tabled paper: Liquor (Artisan Liquor) Amendment Bill 2020, explanatory notes [249](#).

Tabled paper: Liquor (Artisan Liquor) Amendment Bill 2020, statement of compatibility with human rights [250](#).

I am pleased to re-introduce the Liquor (Artisan Liquor) Amendment Bill 2020. The bill amends the Liquor Act 1992 to create a new commercial artisan liquor producer licence to support independently owned artisan distilling and craft beer businesses. Consistent with the government's tackling alcohol fuelled violence policy, the bill also provides measures to minimise the risk of alcohol related harm.

The Palaszczuk government has committed to improving the regulatory environment for artisan liquor producers as part of the Queensland Craft Brewing Strategy and in response to the recommendations of the entrepreneurial pipeline report. By establishing a new, more suitable licence type, the passage of the bill will support our growing artisan liquor industry, particularly as the state recovers from the impacts of COVID-19.

There are approximately 90 independent craft breweries in Queensland that employ more than 1,700 people and contribute an estimated \$62 million annually to the Queensland economy. It is anticipated this will increase to over \$100 million by 2024. There are approximately 34 independent artisan distilleries in Queensland which are anticipated to create more than 106 new jobs over the next two years. Currently, most independent brewers and distillers operate under a producer/wholesaler licence. However, the ability for sales to the public under this licence is very limited. Given this, some licensees seek a second liquor licence, such as a restaurant or bar licence, to meet their business needs, which can be costly.

The new artisan producer licence will allow licensees to sell any Queensland artisan liquor for on-premises consumption provided the sale of their own liquor constitutes at least 70 per cent of total yearly sales. Artisan producer licensees will also have the ability to sell unlimited takeaways of their own liquor, accept online orders for their own liquor and sell their liquor wholesale. Current restrictions limiting retail sales to 2.5 per cent of total sales will not apply to artisan producer licensees.

These changes will allow the operation of taprooms and tasting rooms without a second licence and introduce the ability for the industry to promote each other's products onsite. The bill also provides artisan producer licensees with further opportunities to attend promotional events, such as farmers

markets, and sell their liquor as samples and takeaways. Sample and takeaway amounts will be limited to minimise the risk of alcohol related harm. Licensees may also apply for a permit to sell their liquor at commercial public events, such as music festivals and sporting events.

Ordinary trading hours for on-premises consumption will be from 10 am to midnight, with available extended trading hours until 1 am. Takeaway sales will be allowed from 10 am to 10 pm. Wholesale sales will be in line with the existing hours under a producer/wholesaler licence.

To ensure the artisan producer licence is only available to genuine boutique producers, liquor production volume limits will apply. To be eligible for the licence, a craft brewer must produce between 2,500 and five million litres of beer at the premises each year. An artisan distiller must produce between 400 litres and 450,000 litres of spirits at the premises each year. Production volumes by companies related to the licensee, such as holding companies and subsidiaries, will be taken into account in assessing maximum limits. To further ensure the artisan producer licence supports independent Queensland businesses, licensees must not be more than 20 per cent owned by a large brewer or large distiller. This is all about supporting small businesses. As the previous minister for small business, this is something that I know will support our small businesses to continue to grow in Queensland and develop a market for their product—but most importantly it will create jobs.

If an artisan producer licensee expands beyond the maximum production volumes or sells their business to a large brewer or distiller, they will become ineligible for the licence and will have to explore different options. To encourage licensees to take up the new licence, the bill proposes transitional arrangements that allow for existing licence conditions to be carried over to the extent they are allowed under the new licence. The application fee of \$1,446 will be waived for producer/wholesaler licensees who take up the new licence before 30 June 2021.

Applicants will be subject to the usual requirements for obtaining a new licence. However, the Commissioner for Liquor and Gaming may waive these requirements if the applicant has previously satisfied them for their premises. The bill also contains supporting amendments in relation to promotional events, a new promotional event condition for producer/wholesaler licensees who are artisan distillers and a new artisan spirit producer permit available to both local and interstate artisan distillers.

I would like to thank the stakeholders who have provided input and feedback on this bill, including those involved in the industry, social health stakeholders, hotel and club peak bodies, and the Small Business Advisory Council. The bill will support the growth, innovation and ongoing sustainability of the artisan liquor sector in Queensland. Craft breweries and artisan distilleries cater to customers wanting to experience a quality bespoke product, and the development of this industry will further cultivate a mature drinking culture in Queensland. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. SM FENTIMAN (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (2.56 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

Question put—That the bill be now read a first time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to Legal Affairs and Safety Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee.

Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date

Hon. SM FENTIMAN (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (2.57 pm): by leave, without notice: I move—

That, under the provisions of standing order 136, the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee report to the House on the Liquor (Artisan Liquor) Amendment Bill by 12 February 2021.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.