




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

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LIQUOR (ARTISAN LIQUOR) AMENDMENT BILL

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (4.57 pm): I am delighted to rise to support the Liquor (Artisan Liquor) Amendment Bill 2020 because in this bill we have listened to small business. Small businesses in the artisan liquor industry right throughout Queensland are doing remarkably well and we have responded to the issues that they have raised. I think this bill does a lot to support the growth and the development of the artisan liquor industry in Queensland.

Consistent with the government's commitment to tackling alcohol fuelled violence, the bill also provides measures to minimise the risk of alcohol related harm which I think is really important, particularly in my electorate where I have some of the largest safe night precincts throughout the whole state—Fortitude Valley, upper Caxton Street, Petrie Terrace and the city. Some of the largest of those are in my electorate. It is great to see that we are still minimising the risk of alcohol related harm.

This new licence was endorsed at a roundtable meeting on 2 March attended by representatives from the Independent Brewers Association, the Australian Distillers Association, the Hotels Association and Clubs Queensland. It is great that they are all on board. The objective of this bill is to create a new 'commercial other—artisan producer' licence and a multiple licence is not required to operate. This is really good to see because it is about developing and growing this industry.

Clearly we want it to remain in the small business, craft brewing sector. I think it is a very good idea that we make this available to only genuine boutique producers. We do not want them to be competing with some of the multinationals. We want craft brewers. They must produce between 2,500 and five million litres of beer on their premises to be eligible for the licence. I think that is great because it contains it to the small business, craft brewing sector we really want it to relate to. The bill includes cost-saving measures such as transitional licences. We are going to waive the fee for producer/wholesaler licensees who transition to the new licence before 30 June 2021.

I am blessed as the member for McConnel because I think I have some of the best small businesses in Queensland in my electorate. I know that a lot you will disagree with me, but I am sorry: I would have to say that some of the best are in my electorate. I would like to give a shout-out to the craft breweries in my electorate. The Newstead Brewery in Doggett Street is right across the road from my electoral office and has a fantastic product in the Teneriffe-Newstead area. The Green Beacon Brewing Company in Helen Street is one of Michael Grace's favourite craft breweries and they do a great job. Felons Brewery Company at the Howard Smith Wharves is going from strength to strength. It is an incredible craft brewery that is doing very well, and Range Brewing and the City Winery are also excellent. These are just a few that I know of the others that have been mentioned in this House of the 90 independent craft breweries in Queensland.

We know that these independent craft breweries are growing. They are becoming very popular. My understanding is they employ more than 1,700 people throughout Queensland and they contribute tens of millions of dollars annually to the Queensland economy. These changes are not only great news for the businesses in my electorate but great news for small and local businesses recovering from the

COVID-19 pandemic. Although I must admit that, while some of the liquor outlets obviously had to restrict patronage, a lot of the others did very well. This is going to help them even further because they will be able to sell their own liquor products and other Queensland artisan liquor products for consumption on their premises, which is excellent. They can also sell their own liquor products for consumption off their premises, which is also great. They will have the ability to take orders online, which is excellent, and sell samples and takeaways of their liquor products at promotional events such as farmers' markets. If you have never been down to the Powerhouse farmers' market, that is a good reason to go. It is probably one of the best markets in Queensland. I am sure that in the future we will see some of these terrific craft brewers down there as well. As we said, they can apply for a commercial public event permit to sell their own liquor product at public events. This is also a cost saving for them because they do not have to get as many licences to operate, which is terrific.

I welcome the formation of the artisan liquor advisory group, which is a representation from the broader industry. This group will have the great challenge of ensuring that the group grows and prospers under these new laws. I am sure we will welcome any suggestions they may have in the future. It is great to see this bill has bipartisan support. This is great legislation. This is what we do to assist small businesses in this state. Congratulations to the ministers involved. I know that Minister Butcher introduced this before the election. The Attorney-General has it now in her portfolio and we are bringing this bill back for discussion. I look forward to passing the bill.

I look forward to visiting all those craft breweries in my electorate to ask them how they find the new laws. I am sure they will welcome me with open arms. I have to confess that I am not a big beer drinker, but the member for Toowoomba North mentioned there is a craft brewery that makes a low-carb beer. Maybe he and I can share a low-carb beer one day. If I can taste it maybe I will like it, because if it is low in carbs, member for Toowoomba North, you may have me on side as well. This is great legislation and I commend the bill to the House.