




Speech By
Hon. Lance McCallum

MEMBER FOR BUNDAMBA

Record of Proceedings, 20 August 2024

NIGHT-LIFE ECONOMY COMMISSIONER BILL

Message from Governor

 **Hon. LR McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (11.31 am): I present a message from Her Excellency the Governor.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): The message from Her Excellency the Governor recommends the Night-Life Economy Commissioner Bill. The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

MESSAGE

NIGHT-LIFE ECONOMY COMMISSIONER BILL 2024

Constitution of Queensland 2001, section 68

I, DR JEANNETTE ROSITA YOUNG AC PSM, Governor, recommend to the Legislative Assembly a Bill intituled—


A Bill for an Act to establish the office of night-life economy commissioner and for related purposes

GOVERNOR

Date: 20 August 2024

Tabled paper: Message, dated 20 August 2024, from Her Excellency the Governor, recommending the Night-Life Economy Commissioner Bill 2024 [1533](#).

Introduction

 **Hon. LR McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (11.31 am): I present a bill for an act to establish the Office of Night-Life Economy Commissioner and for related purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights.

Tabled paper: Night-Life Economy Commissioner Bill 2024 [1534](#).

Tabled paper: Night-Life Economy Commissioner Bill 2024, explanatory notes [1535](#).

Tabled paper: Night-Life Economy Commissioner Bill 2024, statement of compatibility with human rights [1536](#).

The bill seeks to establish the Night-Life Economy Commissioner to work with night-life businesses to create a vibrant and safe night-life environment and support, promote and advocate for key aspects of the night-life economy. Queensland is known throughout the world as the Sunshine State. We are proud of our golden beaches, our lush rainforest and our wide open plains, but it is when the sun sets—when a pulse of energy runs through the streets of our cities and towns—that our mighty state of Queensland truly shines. The new Miles Labor government is committed to giving Queenslanders a good, safe night out and we are committed to our night-life businesses and their economic, employment and cultural contribution to Queensland. We are so serious that we are legislating it.

This bill aims to cast the lead role for the state's night-time industry. The new commissioner will work with the industry to support, promote and advocate for key aspects of the night-life economy. The main objective of the commissioner is to work with night-life businesses to create a vibrant and safe night-life environment. They will have an emphasis on partnerships that encourage the growth, sustainability and vibrancy of the diverse local businesses that underpin this important sector.

The new Miles Labor government acknowledges the unique needs of night-life businesses, necessitating the creation of a night-life economy commissioner. This role will ensure that effective support mechanisms for addressing issues impacting the night-time economy and government programs meet their specific needs. The bill establishes the commissioner's appointment and functions, establishing them as a central advocate for night-life businesses, working statewide and interjurisdictionally to enhance these enterprises.

The focus will be on fostering partnerships that promote growth, sustainability and vibrancy. Collaboration with other commissioners on matters relevant to the night-time economy is also required, recognising the common interests of other issues in other areas. The commissioner may also conduct inquiries into issues affecting the night-time economy upon ministerial direction, ensuring a coordinated government approach. The requirement that the minister must direct the commissioner to conduct an inquiry is to navigate when an issue may intersect across multiple areas and ensure a coordinated government approach is applied.

We all have fond memories of evenings spent out with our family and friends going to gigs, dining out, seeing a show, watching live comedy or visiting the many clubs, pubs and restaurants operating in the night-time economy across our great state. I am proud to introduce this bill, which backs in our night-life economy, the businesses operating within it and, most importantly, the Queenslanders whose lives and livelihoods depend on it. With this bill and this new role, the Miles government is not just strengthening the Sunshine State; we are making it the 'starlit state' as well. I commend the Night-Life Economy Commissioner Bill 2024 to the House.

First Reading

Hon. LR McCALLUM (Bundamba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (11.35 am): 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 Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee.