




Speech By  
**Hon. Samuel O'Connor**  
**MEMBER FOR BONNEY**

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Record of Proceedings, 20 February 2025

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Night-life Economy**

 **Hon. ST O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth) (2.41 pm): Queensland's night-life economy is an essential part of our state's cultural and economic fabric. It supports thousands of jobs and attracts millions of visitors each year. We know the sector has faced significant challenges in recent years—challenges which go far beyond the impacts of COVID. In yet another example of typical Labor 'spin over substance' the former government announced and appointed a night-life economy commissioner with no staff or resources to support his work. The Crisafulli government, though, takes Queensland's \$34.9 billion night-life economy seriously. We are ensuring the commissioner is well supported and has everything he needs to advocate for a vibrant, safe and thriving night-life sector.

Today I want to update the House on the important progress made by our Night-life Economy Commissioner, John 'JC' Collins AM. Over recent weeks and months, JC has undertaken an extensive listening tour across Queensland, meeting with almost 100 stakeholders. The commissioner has heard firsthand of the impact of increased costs, the regulatory burden on businesses and the need to repair the relationship between government and industry to drive creativity and investment.

To further support the commissioner we have established the night-life economy advisory panel to bring together industry leaders and sector experts from every part of Queensland to help shape the future of our night-life economy. The panel has live music venue operators, event promoters, hotel and club representatives, performers, academics and safe night precinct workers from across our state. With JC, they will work on solutions on a range of issues that are vital to the success of late night economies across Queensland. This includes improving transport options and regulations and enhancing safety measures to support those who are working in the sector. They will help us make a more sustainable and adaptable night-life economy. As minister, I have issued a statement of expectations to the commissioner which I table to the House.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, titled 'Statement of Expectations: Night-Life Economy Commissioner' [118](#).

By the end of the year, the commissioner will deliver the Queensland night-life economy strategy to provide a road map for growth, investment and regulatory improvements. The first meeting of our night-life advisory panel will be held next week, marking a major milestone in the revitalisation of our night-life economy. This meeting will set the agenda for the year ahead with a focus on short-term wins for the sector, regulatory reform opportunities and the priorities for the new strategy.

Our state is known around the world as a holiday destination and an exciting and vibrant night-life is an essential part of that. By the time the 'best of the best' athletes from across the world arrive for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, we must be ready in every part of Queensland. We will be on the world stage and that presents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to position our state—like so many other host nations have before us—as a global icon.