

Question on Notice
No. 616
Asked on 10 May 2005

MR FRASER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM, FAIR TRADING AND WINE INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT (MS KEECH)—

QUESTION:

Will she update the House on the implementation of changes to support live music in Fortitude Valley?

ANSWER:

I thank the honourable Member for his question and for his ongoing interest and involvement in this important issue. I also appreciate the Member's attendance and active participation at the stakeholder summits I convened in September and October last year.

As the Member is aware, Brisbane's Fortitude Valley is one of Australia's premier live music precincts. The diverse range of live and amplified music venues available in this eclectic precinct together create a dynamic environment unique in Australia, and one of considerable importance to the state's tourism industry.

Following the two stakeholder summits, my Department, in collaboration with the Department of Local Government, Planning, Sport and Recreation and the Brisbane City Council, developed a policy and legislative framework for the declaration of 'special entertainment precincts'. This practical framework, with statewide applicability, was endorsed by Government on 29 March. It will provide a long-term solution for all Queenslanders who live, work and play in the state's key entertainment precincts by balancing the needs of venues, musicians and patrons on the one hand with the rights of residents living in the area on the other.

In accordance with this framework, the Government is in the process of amending liquor licensing and planning laws to give local governments the authority to declare special entertainment precincts and to determine noise levels within those precincts. These amendments are expected to be completed by March 2006, with Brisbane City Council the first local government to employ the new framework in the Valley. This will ensure the Valley remains loud and proud while still recognising the rights of residents in the area.