

## **Question on Notice**

**No. 259**

**Asked on 3 April 2014**

**MRS RICE** asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Mr JARROD BLEIJIE) –

### **QUESTION:**

From the recent release of the Newman Government's Safe Night Out Strategy, will the Attorney-General outline the benefits for the Caxton Street precinct in the Mount Coot-tha Electorate for patrons, licensees and residents?

### **ANSWER:**

I thank the Member for Mount Coot-tha for her question.

The proposed Safe Night Precincts encourage State and Local Governments, liquor accords and community groups to work together to build a safe and vibrant nightlife that balances the interests of licensees, patrons and residents.

Under the Safe Night Out Strategy (the Strategy), a Caxton Street Safe Night Precinct Local Board (Local Board) will be established as an incorporated association. The membership of the Local Board will include all liquor licensees in the area. Potentially, representatives from relevant bodies may also join the Local Board, such as:

- the Chambers of Commerce and Industry Queensland;
- the Brisbane City Council;
- the Queensland Police Service (QPS);
- the Queensland Ambulance Service;
- the Department of Transport and Main Roads;
- Queensland Rail; and
- nominated community organisations.

Licensees and residents will have an active role to play as the Local Board plans and manages strategies for addressing community safety issues such as transport, lighting, public facilities and closed-circuit television. The Queensland Government will ensure that the Local Board can raise private funds and apply for grants from Local Government, State Government and the Australian Government in order to implement initiatives that are tailored specifically to addressing alcohol and drug-related violence in the Caxton Street Safe Night Precinct (the Precinct).

The Strategy provides licensees in the Precinct with additional support to meet their obligations under the *Liquor Act 1992*. A new enhanced late-night trading licensing and compliance regime will help licensed premises that operate after midnight to maintain a safe environment that attracts patrons. Mandatory networkable ID scanners linked to QPS information will enable licensees, who trade past midnight in the Precinct, to identify and deny entry to individuals that have received police banning orders or fines for alcohol or drug-related violence.

Patrons who come to the Precinct with the expectation of having fun without interference from troublemakers will benefit from provisions that ensure licensees maintain a safe environment. Under the Strategy, enhanced compliance and enforcement measures will hold licensees accountable for the responsible service of alcohol.

The Queensland Government's concern extends beyond licensed premises, and both patrons and neighbourhood residents will benefit from initiatives aimed at managing crowds, providing support services and dealing swiftly with anti-social and violent behaviour across the entire Precinct.

The Queensland Government will continue to fund assistance for the provision of secure taxi ranks and we will work closely with the Precinct to promote better public transport management. We will make funding available to the Local Board to support non-Government organisations that provide rest, recovery and sobering up services. The security of the Precinct as a whole will be enhanced by the highly visible presence of the QPS, whose officers will have the authority to issue on-the-spot fines and banning orders to offenders.