



Honourable Yvette D'Ath MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice
Minister for Training and Skills

In reply please quote: MCAR – 566496/1; 3084065; OGR-225/2015; 1557698

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10 DEC 2015

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr ~~Laurie~~ Neil,

I refer to Petitions No. 2505-15 and 2463-15, presented to the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 10 November 2015, seeking retention of the *Safe Night Out Strategy* in its current form, and rejection of the lock out laws proposal.

In particular, the petitioners expressed concern with the proposals for a State-wide 1am lock out, and to stop the service of alcohol at 3am.

The initiatives being implemented as part of the Government's *Tackling Alcohol-Fuelled Violence Policy* are based on national and international evidence, and best practice approaches, for reducing alcohol-related harm.

The Government's Tackling Alcohol-Fuelled Violence Legislation Amendment Bill will reduce alcohol related-harm. The safer people feel, the more they will go out. This will result in business growth as it did in Newcastle, when the New South Wales Government introduced reforms to liquor laws. Since March 2008, there has been a 110% increase in the number of licensed premises in the Newcastle Central Business District.

Significant consultation has been undertaken in relation to the policy. I have hosted stakeholder Round Table meetings in both Brisbane and Cairns, with representatives attending from the liquor industry, business interest groups, relevant unions, community service providers, alcohol research and education groups, health associations, legal associations and academia. I have also met individually with a number of stakeholders.

As part of the policy, the service of alcohol at licensed venues will be required to stop at 2am State-wide (other than in safe night precincts that have been approved for liquor trading until 3am). While this requirement differs from the Government's election commitment to stop the service of alcohol at 3am, it was modified based on the extensive body of internationally recognised, peer-reviewed research demonstrating that the supply of liquor late at night is an essential key to reducing alcohol-fuelled violence. For every hour that liquor trade is reduced, there is a significant decrease in alcohol-related assaults.

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In those areas of Queensland where the service of liquor is required to stop at 2am, no lock out will be imposed.

Safe night precincts will have the ability to be granted approval as a "3am safe night precinct". This will allow individual licensed premises in a 3am safe night precinct to serve liquor until 3am, provided an appropriate extended trading hours approval is held for the venue. This ability to trade for an additional hour recognises safe night precincts have greater capacity to manage later liquor trading hours. This is due to the additional measures implemented in these areas, such as high-visibility policing and the availability of late-night transport.

Given the level of alcohol-related harm increases for every additional hour of trading, it is considered necessary for a 1am lock out to apply in the 3am safe night precincts, in order to assist police in managing patron movement. This will apply to all premises in the 3am safe night precinct that serve liquor beyond 1am.

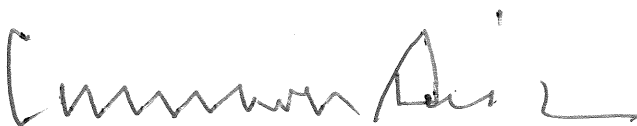
I will consult with each safe night precinct local board prior to the declaration of the precinct as a 3am safe night precinct. This will ensure that local boards have a choice as to whether to move to the 3am model with a 1am lock out, or to remain under the 2am model.

The majority of the reforms that were implemented as part of the former Government's *Safe Night Out Strategy* are being retained, and will operate in conjunction with the new measures. This includes continuing the existing safe night precincts.

Grant funding of \$8.69 million will be available to safe night precincts, for the establishment and administration of local boards (up to \$50,000) and to fund place-based initiatives to address alcohol and drug-related harm, disturbances and public disorder (up to \$50,000 three times per year, and up to \$100,000 once per year).

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



CAMERON DICK MP

Acting Attorney-General and Minister for Justice

Acting Minister for Training and Skills