



Hon Margaret Keech MP
Member for Albert



Queensland
Government

Minister for
Tourism, Fair Trading and
Wine Industry Development

- 8 APR 2005

12/4/05
LAID UPON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE
THE CLERK OF THE PARLIAMENT

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Queensland Parliamentary Service
Parliament House
GEORGE STREET BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie *Neil*

Thank you for your letter of 24 February 2005 and the attached petition, number 384-04 lodged by Andrew Fraser, MP, Member for Mount Coot-tha regarding the formal recognition of the Fortitude Valley area as a Special Entertainment Precinct.

I agree with the petitioners that Fortitude Valley is one of Australia's premier live music precincts with a diverse range of licensed venues creating a dynamic environment that caters to diverse music styles. This 'unique' area is of great tourism importance and its promotion is fundamental to Brisbane's future as a creative and inclusive city.

I am a strong supporter of achieving an equitable outcome for all parties and committed to establishing a world-class entertainment precinct in Fortitude Valley. Officers of the Liquor Licensing Division of my Department, and the Department of Local Government, Planning, Sport and Recreation in consultation with Brisbane City Council have jointly developed a legislative policy framework to address noise impacts in entertainment precincts.

On 29 March 2005 the Queensland Government endorsed the framework for a State-wide plan to establish 'special entertainment precincts'. The framework has been developed to allow implementation across the State should other local governments determine to declare similar 'special entertainment precincts' within their local government area.

The framework will initially be implemented by the Brisbane City Council in the Fortitude Valley entertainment area. A number of legislative amendments are being progressed and are due to take effect in March 2006. Implementation of the framework will result in a reduction of entertainment noise impacts providing greater certainty for licensed entertainment venues, businesses and residents.

These changes will make it easier for Councils to balance entertainment and residential uses in special entertainment areas in Queensland's major cities. The framework will pave the way for a practical long-term solution for all those who visit, work and reside in special entertainment precincts without detracting from the on-going viability of these areas.

Thank you again for bringing this petition to my attention.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Keech MP
Minister for Tourism, Fair Trading
and Wine Industry Development
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