



Queensland
Government

Ref: LLD-00473
MN=105579

Department of
**Employment, Economic
Development and Innovation**

14 SEP 2009

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

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to your letter of 5 August 2009 to the Honourable Andrew Fraser MP, Treasurer and Minister for Employment and Economic Development, regarding petition number 1247-09 received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 4 August 2009. The principal petitioner is Mr Gary Trevithick of 7 Masthead Quay, Noosaville who is seeking refusal of an application by MGW Hotels Pty Ltd for extended trading hours for the Villa Noosa Hotel-Motel, Noosaville.

As liquor licensing matters fall within my portfolio responsibilities, a copy of your letter has been forwarded to me for my consideration.

I am advised by the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation that the application from MGW Hotels Pty Ltd is for an increase in the permitted hours for on premises consumption to 5am, Monday to Sunday. Currently trading on these days is permitted only to 3am.

Applications of this nature are subject to processes prescribed in the *Liquor Act 1992* with a decision made by the chief executive of liquor licensing following consultation with the community and regulatory agencies including the Queensland Police Service and the Sunshine Coast Regional Council.

I am advised the closing date for lodging objections to this application was 12 August 2009 and that a substantial number of objections have been received. A conference will be convened shortly and all valid objectors will be invited to attend.

Once all information has been received, the application will be considered on its merits by the chief executive and a decision reached on a fair and impartial assessment of the evidence presented.

This consideration will include a thorough review of the concerns expressed by objectors, any potential local amenity issues and an assessment on the impact on the community if the application is granted.

As regulator of the liquor industry, the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation is obliged to carefully balance the commercial considerations of licensees with the welfare, needs and interests of the community. I am aware of community concern in relation to the availability of alcohol after 3am and I can assure the petitioners this application will be rigorously assessed, with the onus firmly on the licensee to demonstrate a genuine requirement for the proposed extended trading hours.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Peter Lawlor". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Peter Lawlor MP

Minister for Tourism and Fair Trading