



Our ref: OGR-04240

Office of the  
**Attorney-General**  
**Minister for Local Government**  
**and Special Minister of State**

Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
Parliament House  
Cnr Alice and George Streets  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

**RE: Petition No. 1779-11**

I refer to a petition from Queensland residents, tabled on 1 December 2011, concerning the 3am lockout policy in relation to licensed premises. The petitioners have expressed a concern at the alleged lack of evidence indicating the 3am lockout reduces alcohol-related violence and the problems the lockouts cause for residents and visitors to entertainment precincts.

The petitioners requests that the House take action ‘to replace the outdated and ineffective 3am lockout policy with a comprehensive new strategy that provides safe and enjoyable entertainment areas for patrons, businesses and residents’.

Pursuant to Standing Order 125, I am providing a response to the petition.

A state-wide mandatory 3am lockout provision was imposed on all Queensland late trading premises from 1 July 2006. The lockout prohibits entry/re-entry to licensed premises after 3am and aims to reduce unruly behaviour by limiting movement of patrons between licensed premises in the early hours of the morning. All Australian jurisdictions except the Australian Capital Territory have implemented lockouts. However, Queensland remains the only jurisdiction to have legislated the provisions.

Research into the effectiveness of lockouts in reducing alcohol-related violence has been undertaken in Queensland and other jurisdictions in recent times, with inconclusive findings. Based on that, the Queensland Government is currently contemplating a potential trial of the removal of the lockouts in a controlled environment, like a Drink Safe Precinct.

The Government has committed \$8.5 million for the implementation of a two year pilot of Drink Safe Precincts in three key late night precincts – Fortitude Valley, Surfers Paradise and Townsville CBD. Drink Safe Precincts use the combined resources of State and local Government agencies, industry and community organisations to deliver coordinated plans adapted to local contexts to reduce alcohol-related violence.

The Queensland Government is serious about cracking down on violence, crime and anti-social behaviour in these night spots so that young people can enjoy a safe night out. Drink Safe Precincts are working, with the release of the three, six and nine month snapshots already illustrating that the precincts are dealing with the minority of trouble makers and make the majority of young people feel safe and enjoy the nightlife that Queensland has to offer. Everyone wants to, and has the right to, go out, have a good time, and return home safely.

The Government will not be considering alternate policies suggested by the Opposition, such as reducing late night trading. This does not only remove the rights of people to go out on the weekend and have a good time but it also cuts jobs from the hospitality industry. Young people should be able to go out and have a good time, provided they do not annoy others and do the wrong thing.

I am a parent of young adults who enjoy a night out on the town like the thousands of people who visit popular entertainment precincts, like the Fortitude Valley, on a Friday or Saturday night. It is important this can be done in a safe environment and that is what the Drink Safe Precincts help societies achieve.

The Queensland Government is committed to continuing to work with Councils, industry and communities to reduce alcohol related violence.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Lucas', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**PAUL LUCAS MP**  
**Attorney-General,**  
**Minister for Local Government**  
**and Special Minister of State**