



The Hon Jarrod Bleijie MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice

In reply please quote: OGR-05267

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

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to Petitions 2071-13 and 2055-13 tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 6 March 2013 regarding the authority of local governments to approve or restrict adult entertainment permits. The petitions request the House repeal all laws and amend any regulations that prevent local governments from having the authority to approve or restrict adult entertainment permits.

Currently, local governments are consulted in relation to applications for adult entertainment permits. Under section 117 of the *Liquor Act 1992*, local governments may object or comment on applications for an adult entertainment permit, with section 112 requiring the Commissioner for Liquor and Gaming to have regard to these comments.

The local government or assistant police commissioner may object to the application on the grounds that the amenity, quiet or good order of the locality would be lessened. Although the Commissioner must have regard to these comments, there is no requirement to give any particular weight to the view of local government.

I can advise that a range of liquor and gaming regulatory reforms, including potential changes to the role of local governments in liquor licensing and adult entertainment permit applications, are currently being considered following the release of the *Red tape reduction and other reform proposals for regulation of liquor and gaming* discussion paper on 15 February 2013.

The discussion paper sought comment on whether local governments should have a greater say in liquor and gaming licensing decisions. The discussion paper proposed that a legislative amendment could be introduced to ensure the Commissioner gives weight to comments or objections from local government. Submissions closed on 15 March 2013 and are currently being reviewed by the liquor and gaming red tape reduction expert panel, which has been appointed to consider ways to reduce the regulatory burden on the liquor and gaming industry. The panel consists of key stakeholders from industry, community and government, and includes a representative of the Local Government Association of Queensland.

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The proposal to provide local governments with a greater role in liquor licensing decisions is consistent with the Government's aim to empower local governments and provide more control over matters of community relevance. The expert panel is due to provide the Government with recommendations regarding the proposals canvassed in the discussion paper following its review of submissions.

Although the closing date for discussion paper submissions was 15 March 2013, as these matters are still under consideration, I will ensure that copies of the petitions are forwarded to the expert panel for inclusion in its review.

Yours sincerely



JARROD BLEIJIE MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice