



Honourable Yvette D'Ath MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice
Leader of the House

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23 MAR 2020

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

Dear Mr Laurie 

I refer to e-Petition 3231-19 tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 20 February 2020 seeking the Queensland Government to request that the Public Safety Consultative Committee relating to the Ipswich CBD safe night precinct (SNP) undertake a comprehensive study into the benefits of the SNP to the safety of Ipswich residents; and retain Ipswich CBD as a prescribed SNP with the associated ability for liquor trading until 3am.

The decision to prescribe, repeal, or amend SNP boundaries, rests solely with the Queensland Government through amendments to the *Liquor Regulation 2002* (Liquor Regulation). When determining if a designated SNP should continue to be prescribed or removed, consultation with key stakeholders is undertaken prior to the Government making its decision.

As a harm minimisation measure, section 173NC(1) of the *Liquor Act 1992* provides a mechanism for prescribing areas within Queensland with a concentration of licensed premises as SNPs. Licensees in SNPs are subject to additional regulatory requirements such as ID scanning for regulated premises. Currently, there are 15 SNPs prescribed in the Liquor Regulation, including the Ipswich CBD SNP.

In April 2019, the *Queensland Alcohol-related violence and Night-time Economy (QUANTEM) Project* provided the Palaszczuk Government with the final report of their independent evaluation of the Government's *Tackling Alcohol-Fuelled Violence Policy*. Data underpinning the independent evaluation has been collected over a number of years through comprehensive patron and stakeholder interviews, precinct mapping, ID scanners and harm statistics relating to ambulance, police services, licensing and courts data.

The independent evaluation found that Ipswich CBD SNP contains a single late-trading venue, as opposed to a concentration of venues typical of SNPs, and the existing SNP boundary failed to capture much of the nightlife activity. Accordingly, the independent evaluation recommended the removal of Ipswich CBD as an SNP.

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On 26 July 2019, the Palaszczuk Government released its interim response to QUANTEM's independent evaluation which noted that patron numbers and violence in the Ipswich CBD SNP were low. Accordingly, as an interim response only, the Queensland Government was supportive of the proposal to remove the Ipswich CBD SNP. However, it is important to note that the Government's interim response was intended to be subject to significant consultation with stakeholders before any final decision is to be made.

Targeted consultation on the potential removal of Ipswich CBD SNP was undertaken in 2019 with all licensed premises in the affected area, as well as the Ipswich CBD SNP local board. The results of this consultation are being used to inform the Government's final response to the independent evaluation, including whether or not it is appropriate for the Ipswich CBD to continue to be prescribed as an SNP. The final Government response is currently under consideration.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to reducing alcohol-fuelled harm through the implementation of evidence-based and best practice measures, and acknowledges the continued participation of industry and other stakeholders in this endeavour.

I thank the petitioners for bringing their concerns to the attention of the House.

Yours sincerely



YVETTE D'ATH MP

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