

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

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 20 April 2005 and the attached petition, number 457-05 lodged by Mr John English MP, Member for Redlands regarding the imposition of a 3am lock-out condition on all late trading licensed premises in the Brisbane City Council area.

I note the concerns of the petitioners in relation to the potential impact of the recommendations of the Brisbane City Safety Action Plan (the Action Plan). However, the Government must ensure the sale and supply of liquor is conducted responsibly. The Government has acted to ensure public safety in and around licensed premises following a number of serious violent assaults in the Brisbane City Council area. Lock-outs are an effective tool to address this problem and have been successfully implemented elsewhere in the State.

The *Liquor Amendment Bill 2005* containing two of the recommendations of the Action Plan was passed in Parliament on 20 April 2005 and received assent on 22 April 2005. The two legislative amendments provide for the introduction of a 3am lockout in Brisbane and a State-wide ban on the advertising of free or discounted liquor for consumption on premises. Both provisions took effect on 29 April 2005. I wish to emphasise the 3am lock-out condition will initially be for a 12 month trial period and the effectiveness of the lock-out will be monitored by a Taskforce chaired by Ms Helen Ringrose, Director-General of my Department.

I remain fully supportive of, and committed to, the implementation of the recommendations of the Government's Action Plan.

Yours sincerely

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