

# News releases - John Rau

## Modernising South Australia's liquor laws

John Rau

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New laws introduced into Parliament today will pave the way for the most significant reform to South Australia's liquor licensing system in two decades.

The new Liquor Licensing Bill represents the first stage of the State Government's response to former Supreme Court Justice Tim Anderson QC's review of liquor licensing laws.

It will underpin the framework for the new licensing system that aims to cut red tape, improve public safety and make Adelaide a more vibrant city.

The State Government has engaged with industry and the community to ensure a modern liquor licensing regime reflects changes in the marketplace, supports new businesses and meets contemporary community standards.

The significant reforms proposed in the Bill include:

- introduction of a new licensing class system
- removing restrictions on the sale of liquor on Sundays, Christmas Day, Good Friday, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day
- removing the obligation for meals from some new classes of licence
- increasing efficiency and reducing red tape, particularly during the application process
- replacing the 'needs test' with a test based on community interest
- making various offences under the Act expiable to improve enforcement
- tightening the laws regarding secondary supply of liquor to minors
- introducing a three-hour liquor break in trade for late night venues between the hours of 3am and 8am
- tightening the laws regarding the sale of liquor through the internet or by telephone, known as direct sales.

The Government has considered the feedback given by respondents during consultation on the proposals and has made appropriate changes to the final Bill.

As a result a reform to implement a drug and alcohol testing regime for licensees and responsible persons has been removed from the final Bill.

While the Government seeks to implement reforms to promote a safe drinking environment, it has listened and acknowledged the industry concerns about the proposal.

### Background

In November 2015, former Supreme Court Judge Tim Anderson QC was appointed to conduct a comprehensive review of the state's liquor licensing laws.

In his review, Mr Anderson made 129 recommendations, with the Government accepting the vast majority of his recommendations – and some accepted in part or in principle.

From November 2016 to January 2017, the Government consulted with the community and industry on the draft Liquor Licensing (Liquor Review) Amendment Bill and made changes considered appropriate in light of the feedback received.

### **Quotes attributable to Minister for Consumer and Business Services John Rau**

This Bill strikes the right balance between fostering a vibrant industry for our state, supporting local businesses to thrive, and ensuring there are adequate safeguards in place to protect our community.

We want to see new players enter the market and help grow this important part of our economy.

The Government undertook an extensive consultation process, seeking feedback from industry and the community, with the final bill including changes that are a result of feedback received.

While the introduction of the Bill outlines the legal framework for the new system, there are areas proposed by the independent review that Government are still considering and amendments will be required to the regulations and the Commissioner's Codes of Practice.

The Government will consult with members of community about these recommendations later in the year as part of the development of revised regulations and the Commissioner's Codes of Practice.