

LIQUOR LICENSING DISCUSSION PAPER

28th January 2016

My name is John Meek I am a 66 year old publican / farmer with a major share of 3 hotels on Hindley St. Today is the last day for submissions and I would normally let the AHA give advise to the Government in a professional manner however I feel I need to add to their submission with personal views.

The mentioned themes are Reduce red tape, Safer drinking culture, and Vibrancy. Impossible to get the three right in every ones eyes !!!!!

However change is happening , 20 years ago inspectors helped new licensees with applications etc now it is take a ticket and stand in the line. The Office of the Liquor Licensing Commissioner acted for the Government but also helped the industry. Now it seems The Police and Council have replaced them over time.

I feel the old system has served us well but should we have beer in supermarkets like Victoria, buy a sixpack from the petrol station like California, who knows but South Australian laws seem to have allowed enough outlets to me.

The small bar theme in city streets has added more life to the city and I am hoping it will help Hindley Street from a personal point of view however if it were extended everywhere it would not help country hotels survive. Is that good or bad depends on whether you own a hotel or not, whether a European cafe culture replaces hotels maybe??

I did not intend to comment on everything my main concern being that Adelaide's nightlife remains and the 3 am lockout is not changed by the whim of the Police and to a certain extent the media focus on street violence. Of course there is violence late at night but some of the media focus resulting in Sydney's change of laws happened at 9.30 pm and may well have been a combination of street drugs, steroids and a bad culture not really anything licenced venues could control.

I feel strongly that a crackdown on alcohol only encourages street drugs take hold of our youth.

Example of silliness; Let's ban shots /shooters / cocktails after midnight. Sound good?

A nip of half strength wine based spirit and dash of energy drink for \$5.00 is called a shooter but it may keep some of our daughters and grandkids happy and off of drugs, dancing with their "drink". Would you rather your grandkids take a \$25 drug hit? I certainly would not. What is to be gained by restricting things further? I would say nothing except pushing our youth to use street drugs and go to unsupervised private parties.

Yes revue the liquor act but please act in the public's interest taking into account those that do go out to entertainment precincts for a good time.

Better the current alcohol culture, I believe.

Hoping a balance of Red tape reduction, a safer drinking culture and Vibrancy can be found.

GOOD LUCK!!!!

JOHN MEEK

on behalf of 100+ employees

Shareholder Woolshed on Hindley

Black Bull Hotel Pty Ltd

Dog N Duck