

Deputy Premier John Rau MP

Attorney-General

Minister for Consumer and Business Services

Minister for the City of Adelaide

Wednesday, 6 July 2016

Review recommends steps to create modern liquor licensing system

AN independent review into liquor licensing laws has recommended small bars should be allowed in North Adelaide, people should be able to buy an alcoholic drink in a restaurant without having to buy food but there should be clearer controls on supplying liquor to minors at events such as after-parties.

The calls for change are among 129 recommendations made by former Supreme Court Judge Tim Anderson in a review of the South Australian Liquor Licensing Act.

Mr Anderson's report to the State Government has been publicly released today.

Other recommendations by Mr Anderson include:

- Streamlining liquor licensing categories to simplify the process and better reflect the current business environment.
- Restructuring the current cost regime around liquor licences.
- Removing restrictions preventing the sale of alcohol on Christmas Day and Good Friday.
- Introducing tougher penalties for liquor licence breaches.

The Government is yet to consider recommendations made by Mr Anderson. The Government will formulate its position on Mr Anderson's recommendations in the near future. The Government will consult on any new legislation arising from those recommendations.

Background

In October last year, the State Government released a discussion paper on South Australia's liquor licensing laws.

The following month, former Supreme Court Justice Tim Anderson QC was appointed to conduct the independent review of these laws.

As part of his review, Mr Anderson considered 89 submissions received in response to the discussion paper, and met with approximately 60 groups – including Government agencies, service providers, industry groups and businesses – before finalising his report.

Mr Anderson's review is now available at: www.agd.sa.gov.au/liquorlicensingdiscussionpaper

Quotes attributable to Attorney-General John Rau

“In the nearly two decades since our liquor licensing laws were last reviewed, the number of licences in operation has nearly doubled.

“A review was needed to ensure our licensing regime can keep up with the changing face of the industry and community expectations.

“Mr Anderson rightly acknowledges in the review that South Australia has world-class wineries, seafood and fresh produce which should be celebrated, promoted and showcased through our restaurants, bars, entertainment and tourist precincts.

“The recommendations support a modern liquor licensing system that encourages a competitive market, reduces red tape, promotes vibrancy and a safe drinking culture.

“Mr Anderson has produced a comprehensive review and we shall be considering his findings in detail.

“I would like to thank both Mr Anderson for his work, and those South Australians who took part in the review process – either by making a submission on our discussion paper or getting involved with Mr Anderson’s review.”