

# The Chronicle

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## OPINION



By **STEVE ETWELL**

## Late-night drinking

TONIGHT'S public meeting over several businesses' efforts to extend liquor trading hours is sure to spark plenty of opinions — for and against.

Those against the extension of trading hours point to the possibility of increasing violence from affected patrons and the ever-present problems normally associated with excessive alcohol consumption.

Those for the extension argue that they have substantial restraints imposed on them regarding who they can serve.

Hotels face huge fines and are compelled to adhere to a responsible service of alcohol protocol.

Hoteliers argue that their venues have the capability to stop drinkers who are "too far gone".

That is something that does not always happen when alcohol is consumed in private surroundings.

There is always the argument that in a democracy people should be free to do as they please — as long as they do not break the law or inflict harm on themselves or others.

It is a generational attitude.

Youthful drinkers will be happy with longer hours.

It is doubtful their parents will agree.

**If you wish to comment on this column, e-mail the editor at [letters@thechronicle.com.au](mailto:letters@thechronicle.com.au)**

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