



Office of the Premier

Please quote: MCU

19 October 2009

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Dear

I refer to a petition forwarded to this office by South Queensland Law concerning trading hours for licenced premises in Toowoomba. I have been requested to reply to you on the Premier's behalf.

On 16 September 2009 the Premier announced a moratorium on applications for extended trading hours between 12 midnight and 5am, to take effect immediately. This means that current applications are now on hold for 12 months pending the completion of a Parliamentary inquiry into alcohol-related violence in Queensland. The Law, Safety and Justice Committee's report on the outcome of this inquiry is expected to be handed down in March 2010.

The moratorium will not affect the existing extended trading hours of current licensees, nor will it apply to trading on New Year's Eve or one-off major or special events and these applications will continue to be considered on a case by case basis.

It is also recognised there is a need for late night entertainment in appropriate environments and some allowance will be made for applications relating to a limited number of designated areas. While these areas are yet to be defined, it is likely they will include inner city areas with established entertainment precincts. All applications made in respect of the designated areas will continue to be rigorously assessed in accordance with the criteria prescribed in the *Liquor Act 1992*.

The Queensland Government is committed to enhancing patron and community safety on and near licensed premises and to minimising harm from the misuse and abuse of alcohol, particularly where young people are concerned. The moratorium is another step in our ongoing efforts to promote a safer and more responsible drinking culture in Queensland.

The Premier trusts that this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

Nick Williams
Senior Policy Advisor



Queensland
Government