



Comments

PH

Paul Hunter [REDACTED]

To: Liquor Law Review; ▾



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4:28 PM

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Re: Liquor Laws

My comments on the liquor act amendment passed about two years ago are in relation to the 10pm cessation of take away sales & licence fees.

As an owner of several regional hotels I can confirm that we have had to reduce staff hours solely because of this restriction. My observations have been that it's unlikely the 2-hour reduction in trading hours has had any impact on levels of violence. Most of the late sales we saw were to shift workers and patrons grabbing a drink to have at home before calling it a night. Penalties for serving customers that are approaching intoxication are incentive enough to ensure those showing signs of having had one too many aren't served.

There has also been the unintended side effect where some hotels that trade till midnight serve drinks through their bars and were allowing patrons to sit in unlicensed areas. Unfortunately, as this is considered a take away sale it has meant that hotels have had to stop using these areas after 10pm or risk being prosecuted. Disappointingly for management, this often means a poorer experience for customers who are just confused by all the rules.

In relation to the periodic liquor licence fee scheme, I would like to see less of a loading for late trading venues with a good history. Most of our hotels have unused late licences and we have been stuck paying the full \$5,500 per annum as we're concerned that forfeiting the late hours would have an impact on the hotels' valuations. In the current economic climate, the additional expense is difficult.

Yours faithfully,

Paul Hunter

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