

MEMO

FILE: S051412 **DATE:** 20 March 2009
TO: Monica Barone – Chief Executive Officer
FROM: Ann Hoban – Director, Community Living
SUBJECT: **CEO Update – Safety Star Rating System for Licensed Venues Submission**

Recommendation

For the information of the Lord Mayor and Councillors.

Background

The City is preparing a response to the NSW Government's Safety Star Rating System for Licensed Venues (**Attached**). This is due to be lodged on Friday 27 March 2009.

The key points of the City's submission include:

- The City does not support a Safety Rating System for licensed premises.
- The measurement criteria proposed under the Safety Rating System are part of compliance measures that licensed venues are already required to meet under the *Liquor Act 2007* and *Liquor Regulations 2008*.
- That a rating system does not address the main location of alcohol-related violence and anti-social behaviour, the public domain.
- A rating system may be applicable for less complex land uses and products (ie: a restaurant, hotel accommodation or an electrical appliance). However, the complexity of social issues linked to serving alcohol in a licensed venue make a rating system and its effective monitoring overly onerous.

The City further recommends that the NSW Government focus on the following legislative and policy reforms:

- Amendments to the *Liquor Act 2007* and *Liquor Regulation 2008* to include a definition of "social detriment".
- Amendment of the *Liquor Act* to include a definition of "saturation".
- Amendment of the *Liquor Act 2007* to cap the provision of any further 24 hour trading liquor licenses.
- Amendment of the *Liquor Act 2007* to apply a two year trial of a state-wide retrospective 3am lockout on all licensed premises, with no exemptions available for any venue, the same as the Queensland government lockout.
- Amendment to the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* to include clustering controls for licensed premises, and guidelines about portion of uses for day / evening economy.

- Investigation of a model of liquor licence trading hours, based on the City's *Late Night Trading Premises Development Control Plan*, where extended trading hours are regarded as a privilege to be earned.
- Investigation of a cap on the provision of any further 24 hour liquor licenses for NSW.
- Development of a Licensed Venue Safety Audit Toolkit by the Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing, based on the Victorian model.
- Roll out of state-wide, mandatory security guard training on basic communication skills.

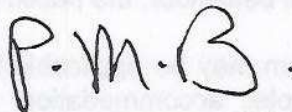
The City's draft submission to the Safety Star Rating System for Licensed Venues will be distributed to Councillors next week. If you have any comments or questions prior to this, please contact Ann Hoban, Community Living Director.

Ann Hoban, Community Living Director

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Approved



Monica Barone, Chief Executive Officer