

LIQUOR LICENSING UPDATE

Regular News and Updates from the Liquor Licensing Division

July 2006 No. 12

Success of the extended hours permits for 2006 FIFA World Cup

Approximately 40 licensed premises throughout Queensland were granted extended trading hours during the 2006 FIFA World Cup.

The Division commends all these licensees for the success of this event with no incidences reported and 100% compliance with the strict conditions developed to ensure continued safety of patrons and communities surrounding premises where extended hours were granted.

State-wide 3am lockout and smoking laws

The implementation of the State-wide 3 am lockout and smoking laws on July 1 was highly successful with most areas reporting an improvement in patron behaviour and less police involvement.

For more information about the State-wide Safety Action Plan, please visit www.liquor.qld.gov.au or call 1300 654 919.

For more information on the anti-smoking laws, please call the Tobacco Hotline on 1800 005 998 or visit the Queensland Health website at www.health.qld.gov.au.

Licensees help to combat “sly grogging”

Over recent months, the Division has also been working in partnership with licensees in the catchment areas of 19 Indigenous communities protected by Alcohol Management Plans. This collaborative approach has successfully developed and implemented special licence conditions in an effort to combat “sly grogging”. The entire Queensland community is indebted to all licensees who have participated in this program, which has sometimes impacted economically on their business. I would like to recognise and commend them for their role as good corporate citizens and their commitment to this important social justice initiative.

Ekka 2006

The Royal Queensland Show (the “Ekka”) will return to Brisbane on 10 – 19 August 2006. The Liquor Licensing compliance team is preparing for their annual visits to licensed premises at the Ekka, as well as those premises located near the RNA Showgrounds. The key issues for Liquor Licensing and licensees are minors, unduly intoxicated patrons, and community safety on and near licensed premises, so be on the look-out for a Liquor Licensing inspector coming soon to a hotel near you.

Regional community events

The Ekka is not the only major community event to be held in Queensland in the next few months and the Liquor Licensing Division is working collaboratively with a number of rural and remote communities to develop special licensing arrangements.

Liquor Licensing Minister Margaret Keech and the Division are keen to work closely with Queensland communities. I am currently undertaking a tour of regional and remote areas from the Central West to Far North Queensland to meet with licensees, hoteliers, and community members concerned about compliance issues and the industry in general. My meetings with individual licensees and community representatives have achieved enhanced consultation in relation to community events and Liquor Licensing operations within those regions.

For example, the Mt Isa Rodeo is held every year during August. This year has seen the development of an event management plan, including RSA training for volunteer bar staff and the use of local volunteers to perform security functions.

Liquor Licensing Officers located in the regions can assist local and community event organisers in many ways to make local events safe and enjoyable for all.

For more information about this initiative, visit our website: www.liquor.qld.gov.au to review the fact sheet on Community Events and Event Management Plans.

Riverfestival

Riverfestival will be held from Friday 1 September to Sunday 10 September in 2006.

As in previous years, there will be several outdoor events held in public areas close to the river including the popular “RiverFeast” held on the Victoria Bridge. Last year this also encompassed the Goodwill Bridge.

Licensees are reminded that all applications to “cater away” to any of the associated events are required to be lodged at least 28 days prior to the event. The Licensee must also have the Catering Away endorsement on their licence in order to apply for a Catering Away Permit.

In order to assist Licensees in meeting the timeframes, the Division will send appropriate forms out to Licensees who were involved in last year’s events.

Forms can be downloaded from www.liquor.qld.gov.au.

Fortitude Valley special entertainment precinct

Following extensive public consultation, the Fortitude Valley Special Entertainment Precinct was declared by Brisbane City Council on 1 July 2006, in an attempt address noise issues in the area.

The special entertainment precinct initiative is a collaborative approach by Queensland State and Local government requiring amendments to both the *Liquor Act 1992* and the *Local Government Act 1993*.

The changes involve exempting licensed entertainment venues in declared Special Entertainment Precincts from existing amplified music noise provisions contained in the Liquor Act and passing compliance responsibility for amplified music noise to the relevant local council. This allows amplified music to be played in line with the relevant local government's special entertainment precinct local laws which must set out amplified music noise requirements in the designated area.

The framework to be implemented State-wide by the Local Government Act. Therefore, all local governments, not just the, can establish special entertainment precincts should they wish.

The Brisbane City Council is the first local government to make use of these provisions by declaring Fortitude Valley a special entertainment precinct. A public consultation process regarding the proposed law was conducted during February and March 2006.

The new legislation will pave the way for a practical long-term solution for all those who visit, work and reside in special entertainment precincts.

From a community perspective, the amendments will make it easier for local governments to balance entertainment and residential uses in entertainment precincts throughout Queensland's major cities.

For further information about Special Entertainment Precincts and how they may effect licensees contact, Liquor Licensing on 13 13 04.

For information on permits for the Fortitude Valley special entertainment precinct please contact BCC on 3403 9434.

Change to application fees and forms

The Division is currently updating all licensing application forms to incorporate changes to fees and legislation. The new forms will be available from 28 July 2006. Existing application forms will be accepted for applications lodged on or before 27 July 2006. Anyone applying for a new licence should review the Liquor Licensing Fees fact sheet available for downloading at www.liquor.qld.gov.au.

Good Sports Program visiting regions

Last month Good Sports staff participated in a South-West Queensland regional visit with Liquor Licensing staff. The tour provided the opportunity for licensees, nominees and sports club representatives to learn more about the benefits of the Good Sports program in remote communities including Warwick, Dalby, Roma, Charleville, Cunnamulla, St George, and Goondiwindi.

Two recently appointed Project Officers have starting working through the Level One stage of the program with a range of clubs in Brisbane and Toowoomba.

The Liquor Licensing Division and Good Sports will co host forums in Brisbane and Toowoomba for sports clubs over the coming months. The forums will update and educate clubs on specific liquor licensing issues and initiatives and introduce clubs to the benefits of the Good Sports Program.

Interested in participating? Contact Good Sports on 07 3224 7195 or visit www.goodsports.com.au.

Feedback

To provide feedback or comments on the *Liquor Licensing Update* or to change your contact details, please email: liquorcomms@dtftwid.qld.gov.au.

Media – for Statewide/Brisbane interviews with the Minister for Liquor Licensing contact:

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Liquor Licensing Division

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For interviews and comment on regional issues contact the Department's Regional Managers:

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