



## HOSPITALITY | *Extended trading hours moratorium lifted*

### August 2014

A very important topic for the hospitality industry and the public alike has been the state government’s attitude toward violence in late night venues.

In September 2009, the Queensland Government announced a moratorium on all applications for extended trading hours in licensed venues between 12.00am and 5.00am. The moratorium was bought in by the previous administration, during a time when there was a heightened sense of public concern about alcohol related violence in and around licensed venues.

The moratorium on applications was originally put in place as a temporary measure, pending the outcome of the Law, Justice and Safety Committee’s inquiry into alcohol-related violence. The findings were released in March 2010 and many of the recommendations addressing alcohol-related violence have since been implemented. Those measures have greatly improved patron safety in late night venues.

The current Government understands and is working with the industry to continue to attempt to curb alcohol-related violence. A major step in this direction is the implementation of the *Safe Night Out Strategy (SNOS)*. The SNOS is to further improve responsible behavior, reduce alcohol and drug related violence and take the best steps to ensure Queensland night life is safe.

Due to the implementation of the SNOS and its intended affect, the Government has decided to lift the moratorium from 1 September 2014.

This means applications for extended trading hours after midnight may now be lodged by licensed venues. The application process, as detailed in the *Liquor Act 1992*, has not changed substantially since the moratorium was

introduced. If a venue wishes to permanently alter its trading hours, it must apply to the OLGR. The application should include a completed application form (Liquor Licence Form 9), the prescribed application fee, a risk assessment management plan, a community impact statement, and a completed Liquor Licence Form 45 (BCC area only).

Those venues which had lodged applications prior to the imposition of the moratorium will be contacted by OLGR to have their application fee refunded and original application returned and will have the opportunity to re-apply from 1 September 2014.

If a venue previously traded after midnight before the introduction of the moratorium that licence was not affected and the approved trading hours remain in place, unless otherwise revoked as a result of some other action.

As recently stated on our website, the *Safe Night Out Legislation Amendment Bill 2014* was passed on 26 August 2014. In our next eNews Publication, we will discuss the obligation of liquor licensees in the safe night out precinct.



**Curt Schatz**  
Partner  
Mullins Lawyers  
t +61 7 3224 0230  
[cschatz@mullinslaw.com.au](mailto:cschatz@mullinslaw.com.au)



**Ruth Sainsbury**  
Solicitor  
Mullins Lawyers  
t +61 7 3224 0382  
[rsainsbury@mullinslaw.com.au](mailto:rsainsbury@mullinslaw.com.au)