CLAUSE NOTES

Liquor Licensing Amendment Bill 2015

Part I - Preliminary

Clause I Short title

Clause 2 Allows for provisions in the legislation to commence on a day or days to be proclaimed.

Clause 3 In this Act, the Liquor Licensing Act 1990 is referred to as the Principal Act.

Clause 4 A new section 2A is inserted, which establishes the objective of the Act. The objective aims to assist in the interpretation of the Act; guide regulatory bodies in their decision making responsibilities; and guide industry and the wider community in understanding the context and purpose of the Act.

The clause clarifies that the overarching regulatory purpose of the Act is to regulate the sale, supply, promotion and consumption of liquor in order to minimise harm arising from the misuse of liquor and to facilitate the responsible development of the liquor and hospitality industries in a way that is in the best interest of the community.

Further, the section requires that any regulatory authority performing functions or exercising power conferred by the Act must do so in accordance with the object of the Act.

Clause 5 A number of definitions are inserted into and amended in section 3.

The term 'barring order' is defined as an order served under section 81(2) or (4) (see clause 84).

The term 'best interests of the community' is defined as meaning interests that are prescribed in regulations. The 'best interests of the community' term is used in the object of the Act, in the decision making process for the granting of a permit or licence, and in the approval of alteration to the area of a licensed premises.

Other references to 'best interests of the community' in the Act where the defined meaning is not applicable have been replaced with "public interest" to avoid confusion.

The term 'convicted' is inserted to clarify that the definition includes being found guilty, whether or not a conviction is recorded.

The term 'intoxicated' is defined in section 3B as someone exhibiting signs of being affected by alcohol or some other substance. This definition recognises that intoxication can result from substances other than or in combination with alcohol.

The definition of 'liquor' is amended to allow for other alcoholic substances that are not in beverage form to be prescribed in regulations and defined as liquor

for the purposes of this Act.

The definition of 'meal' is inserted to help clarify areas in licensed premises in which persons under the age of 18 years cannot enter or remain.

'Partner' is defined as having the same meaning as the Relationships Act 2003.

'Permit holder' is defined as the holder of a permit.

'Permit premises' is defined as premises specified in a special or small producers permit on which liquor may be sold.

'Resident' is defined as a person who is able to provide evidence that he or she resides or is staying overnight in a part of the licensed premises set aside for accommodation.

'Responsible adult' is defined as a person over the age of 18 and is either a parent (or has parental responsibility), step parent, guardian, spouse, or partner of a minor,

'Small producer' is defined as a producer or class of producers that is prescribed in regulations.

'Small producer permit' is defined in a new section 15A.

'Special permit' is defined in an existing section 15.

The term 'vicinity' is inserted to define the area in which a person is not permitted to enter in relation to licence/permit premises. The details of the distance may be prescribed in regulations or by Police officers when issuing barring orders.

Clause 6

Amends section 3A to include permit applicants and permit holders within the meaning of associate. The meaning of associate is also broadened to include any person that the Commissioner is satisfied could exercise a significant influence over the applicant, licensee or permit holder.

The term 'de facto spouse' is omitted from the definition of 'relative' and is substituted with the term 'partner' as defined in clause 5.

The definition of 'relevant position' in respect of a business is amended to include the permit holder if the business is conducted in a premises where a permit is in force.

Clause 7

A new section 3B is inserted, which provides the meaning of the term 'intoxicated' (see clause 5) and replaces the previously undefined term 'drunk'.

Clause 8

Amends section 5 by replacing the word 'shall' with 'must' - for grammatical improvement purposes.

Clause 9

Amends section 6 to allow the Commissioner to be able to grant a small producers permit.

Clause 10

Amends section 7 to allow general licenses to be subject to conditions specified in the licence.

Clause 11

Amends section 8 to allow on-licenses to be subject to conditions specified in the licence.

Clause 12 Amends section 9 to allow off-licenses to be subject to conditions specified in the licence.

Clause 13 Amends section 10 to remove the requirement that conditions on a club licence must only relate to record keeping of membership and visitors to the club, and allows club licences to be subject to any conditions specified in the licence.

Clauses 14, 15, Amend sections 11, 12,13,14, and 15 for grammatical improvement purposes. 16, 17, 18

Clause 19 Inserts a new section 15A, which authorises small producers to sell liquor under a small producer's permit. The Commissioner may impose conditions on this type of permit.

Clause 20 Amends section 22 by omitting the term 'believes'. The amendment clarifies that the Commissioner may determine that a person is not qualified to be granted a liquor licence if the Commissioner suspects that an associate is not a fit and proper person to be an associate of a licensee.

Clause 21 Amends section 24 by substituting the term 'best interests of the community' with the term 'public interest'. The defined meaning of 'best interests of the community' is not a relevant factor for the Commissioner to consider when determining whether the Commission should consider an application for a liquor licence. The term has been replaced with 'public interest'.

Clause 22 Amends section 24A to clarify that when considering an application for an onlicence which has a stated purpose of operating as a restaurant, that the Commissioner/Commission must be satisfied that premises will operate as a restaurant.

Clause 23 Inserts a new section 24B, which requires an applicant to advise the Commissioner of any change in circumstance in connection with an application for a licence as soon as reasonably practical before the application is determined (with any additional information forming part of the application). This ensures that an application is determined using correct information.

Clause 24 Inserts a new section 25B, which provides for conditions to be applied to a licence by the Commissioner when it is granted. It also provides for a fine to be imposed if the conditions are not complied with.

Inserts a new section 25C, which provides for conditions to be added or varied on a licence by the Commissioner. Conditions may not be added to licences that existed before the commencement of section 24 of the *Liquor Licensing Amendment Act 2015* (unless the addition is a result of disciplinary action).

The Commissioner must notify the licensee of any variations to licence conditions and their right of appeal.

Inserts a new section 25D, which provides for licensees to apply for variations to licence conditions. The Commission may request further information from the applicant when considering the request to vary conditions. The Commission may only refuse or approve the requested variation and must inform the applicant of their right of appeal to the Commission.

Clause 25 Substitutes section 28, which provides for a licensee to apply to the Commissioner to transfer a licence, with a new section.

The new section 28 provides for existing transfer provisions while providing the Commissioner the ability to gather further information from the applicant or transferee in consideration of the application, make further enquiries to allow proper consideration of the application, and seek a fit and proper assessment of the transferee and associates from the Commissioner of Police.

- Clause 26 Amends section 29 by inserting a new subsection that the Commissioner must not approve the transfer of a licence unless the transferee is qualified to be granted a licence under section 22.
- Clause 27 Omits section 30A(11). The omitted obligation to display an interim authority in public entrance is inserted in another Part of the Act which deals with requirements for licensees and permit holders to display their licences and permits. (see clause 50).
- Clause 28 Amends section 31 to further clarify the qualifications that are required to grant a liquor permit. The qualifications are expanded and specify that a person that the Commissioner to reasonably suspects is not fit and proper or has an associate that is not fit and proper, is not qualified to hold a permit.
- Clause 29 Amends section 32 to provide consistent wording across the relevant sections for the application of a licence and permit.
- Clause 30 Amends section 33 to allow the Commissioner to seek a report from the Commissioner of Police as to whether a liquor permit applicant (and any associates) is in the opinion of the Commissioner of Police a fit and proper person to be a permit holder.
- Clause 31 Inserts section 33A, which requires an applicant to advise the Commissioner of any change in circumstance in connection with an application for a permit as soon as reasonably practical before the application is determined (with any additional information forming part of the application). This ensures that an application is determined using correct information.
- Clause 32 Amends section 34 by inserting the word liquor before the word permit for purposes of clarity; and for consistency within the Act the categories of persons who must not be subjected to undue annoyance or disturbance have been broadened to include people attending school.

Inserts sections 34A, which provides for the Commissioner to grant a permit with conditions. The permit holder must comply with the conditions and a fine can be imposed if conditions are not complied with.

Inserts sections 34B, which provides for the Commissioner to vary conditions on a permit by written notice. The Commissioner must notify the permit holder of their right of appeal in relation to the varied conditions. The Commissioner must give at least 14 days' notice of the variations unless satisfied that they should be effected more urgently.

Inserts sections 34C, which provides for permit holder to apply for variations to permit conditions. The Commission may request further information from the applicant when considering the request to vary conditions. The Commission may only refuse or approve the requested variation and must inform the applicant of their right of appeal to the Commission.

Clause 34

Amends section 37 to allow the Commissioner to cancel small producer permits in the same way that it has the power to cancel other permits, if it is in the public interest to do so.

Clause 35

Inserts section 38A, which allows the Minister to prohibit alcohol products by declaring them undesirable liquor products if it is in the public interest to do so. Once a product is declared an undesirable liquor product it is an offence for a person to sell such a product and a fine can be imposed.

This section imposes a penalty of up to 50 penalty units for a person selling an undesirable liquor product and up to 100 penalty units where the licensee or permit holder is guilty of an offence when a person authorised by them sells the product.

Clause 36

Repeals section 40, 41 and 42. These sections deal with the cancellation, or variation of an out-of-hours permit, and the cancellation or suspension of a licence. These sections are incorporated under the new sections 99 and 105.

Substitutes section 40, which enables the Commissioner to issue a written notice to a licensee or permit holder to comply with a direction.

The section provides the Commissioner with the power to take disciplinary action if the licensee or permit holder fails to comply with a written notice.

Clause 37

Amends section 43 so that conditions may be consistently applied to all liquor licences and permits.

Clause 38

Repeals sections 44 and 45 that deal with variations of special licences; this is now dealt with in sections 34A, 34B and 34C (see clause 33).

Clause 39

Amends the heading of Division 5 – Obligations of licensees, to reflect that the Division now includes obligations of permit holders.

Clause 40

Amends section 46 to extend the obligation of licensees to retain control on sale and consumption of liquor to permit holders. In addition it replaces the word 'shall' with 'must' - for grammatical improvement purposes.

Amends section 46 to impose a penalty of up to 50 penalty units in the event the licensee or permit holder fails to exercise effective control.

Clause 42

Amends section 46A to extend similar obligations that licensees have regarding the responsible sale and service of liquor to permit holders. A penalty of up to 20 penalty units can be imposed if licensees and permit holders do not comply with the obligation.

Licensees and permit holders must complete an approved course if directed by the Commissioner. A penalty of up to 20 penalty units can be imposed if licensees and permit holders do not comply with the obligation.

Record keeping obligations are extended to permit holders.

Clause 43

Inserts section 46B, which requires licensees and permit holders to ensure that people that sell or serve liquor meet the minimum age that is prescribed in regulations.

A fine of up to 50 penalty units can be imposed if licensees and permit holders do not comply with the obligation.

Inserts section 46C, which creates an obligation for licensees and permit holders to ensure that the sale and consumption of liquor does not cause undue annoyance, disturbance or disorderly conduct in the premises or in the neighbourhood for classes of persons. (For example, people living or working in the neighbourhood of the premises and customers of business in the area.)

A fine of up to 50 penalty units can be imposed if licensees and permit holders do not comply with the obligation.

Inserts section 46D, which creates responsibilities and obligations associated with selling liquor through the internet or other communication media.

A licensee that sells liquor through the internet or other communication media must prominently display its licence number in advertisements or published information.

A fine of up to 20 penalty units can be imposed if licensees do not comply with the obligation.

When selling liquor the internet or other communication media, the licensee must require the purchaser to supply their date of birth and provide delivery instructions that require the liquor to be delivered to an adult person.

A fine of up to 20 penalty units can be imposed if licensees do not comply with the obligation.

It is an offence for a person under the age of 18 years to take delivery of liquor that is sold through the internet or other communication media.

A fine of up to 20 penalty units can be imposed if licensees and permit holders do not comply with the obligation.

- Clause 44 Amends section 47 by inserting a penalty provision of up to 20 penalty units where a licensee alters the area of a licensed premise without approval of the Commissioner.
- Clause 45 Amends section 48 by inserting a penalty provision of up to 20 penalty units where a licensee has altered a designated area of a licensed premise without approval of the Commissioner.
- Clause 46 Repeals section 49 and substitutes it with a new section which allows the Commissioner to specify details that a licensee or permit holder must inform the Commissioner of (for example, personal detail changes or details of any offences of which they are found guilty).
- Clause 47 Amends section 53 to extend the obligation of licensees to produce a liquor licence on demand (for police officers or authorised officers) to permit holders. In addition, it replaces the word 'shall' with 'must' for grammatical improvement purposes.
- Clause 48 Amends section 53 by inserting a penalty provision of up to 20 penalty units where a licensee or permit holder has failed to produce a licence or permit on demand.
- Clause 49 Amends section 54 by inserting a penalty provision of up to 20 penalty units where a licensee has failed to display a licence.
- Clause 50 Inserts section 54A, which replaces paragraph 30A(11) which requires a person who is acting as a licensee to display their authority to act as licensee.

A fine of up to 20 penalty units has been added to this provision.

- Clause 51 Amends section 55 by replacing the word 'shall' with 'must' for grammatical improvement purposes.
- Clause 52 Amends section 55 by inserting a penalty provision of up to 20 penalty units where a licence holder has failed to display a permit granted in respect of a licensed premises.
- Clause 53 Inserts section 55A, which provides requirements for the display of special permits and small producer's permits, and includes a fine of up to 20 penalty units if fail to comply with obligations.
- Clause 54 Amends section 56 by replacing the word 'shall' with 'must' for grammatical improvement purposes.
- Clause 55 Amends section 56 to include a penalty provision of up to 20 penalty units where a liquor restriction order has not been displayed on the premises.
- Clause 56 Amends section 60 by replacing the word 'shall' with 'must' for grammatical improvement purposes.
- Clause 57 Amends section 60 to include a penalty provision of up to 20 penalty units where a notice prohibiting or restricting entry of young people has not been displayed on the premises.

Clause 58 Amends section 61 by replacing the word 'shall' with 'must', replacing the undefined term 'parent or guardian' with the defined term of 'responsible adult' and inserts a penalty of up to 20 penalty units for contravention of this provision.

Clause 59 Amends section 62 by replacing the word 'shall' with 'must', and creating an obligation for permit holders to require certain people to leave the premises.

Clause 60 Amends section 62 by inserting a penalty provision of up to 20 penalty units where a licensee or permit holder fails to require certain people to leave a licensed or permit premise.

Clause 61 Amends section 63 by inserting a penalty provision of up to 20 penalty units where the holder of an off-licence has allowed liquor purchased to be consumed on the premises.

Clause 62 Amends section 64 by inserting a penalty provision of up to 20 penalty units where a licensee has allowed liquor to be removed from an on-licensed premises.

Clause 63 Amends the provisions of section 65 to apply to all liquor licences, not just general licences and on-licenses.

The amendment also expands the area where a person may not enter or remain on the premises after the time that the authorised sale of liquor has ceased. (This was previously restricted to where liquor was sold over a bar).

Inserts a penalty of up to 20 penalty units where a licensee fails to ensure that a person does not remain on any part of the licensed premises where liquor is normally sold at specific times of the day.

Clause 64 Amends section 66 by replacing the word 'shall' with 'must' - for grammatical improvement purposes; and inserts a penalty of up to 20 penalty units where a licensee fails to notify the Commissioner of a prolonged absence from the licensed premises.

Clause 65 Amends section 67 by replacing the word 'shall' with 'must' - for grammatical improvement purposes; and inserts a penalty of up to 20 penalty units where a licensee or permit holder has hindered (etc.) an authorised officer.

Clause 66 Amends the Heading of Part 2, Division 6 from Offences to General Offences.

Clause 67 Inserts section 68, which allows the Commissioner to prohibit or restrict advertising and promotion by licensees and permit holders that is likely to encourage irresponsible consumption of alcohol or is in the public interest to do so.

Inserts a penalty of up to 20 penalty units where a licensee fails to comply with the Commissioner's notice to prohibit or restrict advertising and promotion.

Clause 68 Amends section 69 by replacing the word 'shall' with 'must' - for grammatical improvement purposes.

Inserts section 69A, which creates an obligation for persons not sell or serve liquor on a licensed or permit premises if he or she is intoxicated.

Inserts a penalty of up to 20 penalty units for non-compliance with the obligation.

Further, a licensee or permit holder is guilty of an offence if a person authorised by them sells or serves liquor while intoxicated. A penalty of up to 50 penalty units applies.

Clause 70

Amends section 70 by replacing the word 'shall' with 'must' - for grammatical improvement purposes.

The obligations in this section are expanded to include permit holders, so that a licence holder or permit holder is guilty of an offence if liquor is sold or served to young people on a licensed or permit premises.

Clause 71

Amends section 71 by replacing the word 'shall' with 'must' - for grammatical improvement purposes, and broadens the provision so that the obligation not to supply liquor to young people at a permit premises applies to all permit holders.

Clause 72

Amends section 72 by replacing the word 'shall' with 'must' - for grammatical improvement purposes, and removes the undefined term of 'parent or guardian' and substituting the defined term 'responsible adult' (see clause 5).

Clause 73

Amends section 73 by replacing the word 'shall' with 'must' - for grammatical improvement purposes.

Clause 74

Amends section 74 by replacing the word 'shall' with 'must' - for grammatical improvement purposes, and expands the provision to include all permit premises.

Clause 75

Amends section 75 by replacing the word 'shall' with 'must' - for grammatical improvement purposes, and expands the provision to include all licences and permit premises.

Clause 76

Amends section 76 by replacing the word 'shall' with 'must' - for grammatical improvement purposes, and expands the provision to include all licences and permit premises (not just licensed and special purpose premises).

Clause 77

Amends section 77 by replacing the word 'shall' with 'must' - for grammatical improvement purposes, and expands the provision to include all licences and permit premises (not just licensed and special purpose premises).

Clause 78

Amends section 78, by omitting the undefined term 'drunk' and replacing it with the defined term 'intoxicated'.

The amendment adds the requirement for liquor not to be served to intoxicated people in addition to the existing requirement for liquor not to be sold to intoxicated people.

The amendment extends the provisions of the section to include permit holders and permit premises.

Amends section 79 by replacing the word 'shall' with 'must' - for grammatical improvement purposes, substitutes the undefined term 'drunk' with the defined term of 'intoxicated'; and extends the section to include all permit premises.

Clause 80

Amends section 79A to require that a permit holder, along with licensees, must take reasonable action to prevent an offence.

Clause 81

Inserts section 79B, which prohibits a person selling liquor through a vending machine unless approved by the Commissioner and specified on the licence or permit.

A penalty of up to 20 penalty units is imposed for contravention of this provision.

Inserts section 79C, which provides that liquor is not to be brought onto a licensed or permit premises without consent of the licensee or permit holder.

A penalty of up to 10 penalty units is imposed for contravention of this provision.

Inserts section 79D, which, prohibits inappropriate behaviour and language on a licensed or permitted premises, which links to the current requirements for licensees to require a person to leave the premises when they exhibit such behaviours.

A penalty of up to 20 penalty units is imposed for contravention of this provision.

Clause 82

Amends section 80 by replacing the word 'shall' with 'must' - for grammatical improvement purposes.

The amendments strengthen existing provisions so that when a licensee or a police officer requests a person to leave a licensed premises the person must not re-enter the vicinity of the premises for a period of six hours or the remainder of the day's trading, whichever is the longer period.

In the event the person attempts to remain or re-enter the vicinity, without reasonable excuse (for example, residing within the vicinity or fearing for personal safety) a penalty of up to 50 penalty units is imposed.

Clause 83

Extends section 80A to include all permit premises and strengthens existing provisions so that when a permit holder or a police officer requests a person to leave a permit premises the person must not remain in the vicinity of the premises for a period of six hours or the remainder of the day's trading, whichever is the longer period.

In the event the person attempts to remain or re-enter the vicinity, without reasonable excuse (for example, residing within the vicinity or fearing for personal safety) a penalty of up to 50 penalty units is imposed.

Clause 84 Repeals section 81 and substitutes a new section that provides for barring orders.

This amendment strengthens the powers of police, licensees and permit holders to deal with persons who are refused entry or who are asked to leave a licensed or permit premises and continue to remain or re-enter the premises or are loitering outside or harassing other patrons.

This amendment allows licensees and permit holders with the ability to issue barring orders, for specific behaviour, for a period capped at six months.

This amendment allows a police officer of or above the rank of sergeant to issue a barring order for a period of less than 72 hours.

This amendment allows a police officer of or above the rank of inspector to issue a barring order for a period of 72 hours or more.

Barring orders issued by police officers may bar people from entering licenced premises within a specified area up to a six month period. Grounds on which police officers may issue an order include (but are not limited to) the welfare of the person, or if the person commits an offence, or behaves in an offensive or disorderly manner on or near the licensed or permit premises.

Defences for entering or remaining in the vicinity of the premises (such as residing within that vicinity, needing to access transport within the vicinity or genuine safety fears) are also provided for.

Barring orders may be varied or revoked in the same manner as the barring order was made.

In the event the person attempts to remain or re-enter the vicinity, without reasonable excuse, a penalty of up to 50 penalty units can be imposed.

In the event the person enters or attempts to enter or remains on the premises to which a barring order relates a penalty of up to 50 penalty units can be imposed.

Inserts section 81A, which provides appeal provisions against a police barring order.

- Clause 85 Amends section 83 by replacing the word 'shall' with 'must' for grammatical improvement purposes.
- Clause 86 Heading of Part 2 Division 7 extended to include all permit premises.
- Clause 87 Amends section 84 by removing the undefined term of 'parent or guardian' and substituting it with the defined term of 'responsible adult'.
- Clause 88 Amends section 86 to enable the powers of authorised officers to extend to all permit premises.
- Clause 89 Amends section 89 to allow police to enter permit premises as well as licensed and special purpose premises.

Clause 90 Amends the definition of responsible entity within section 92A (Power to seize false identity documents) to include permit holders.

Clause 91 Amends section 93 so the power to restrict entry to premises is extended to all permit holders not just special permit holders.

Clause 92 Amends section 94 so police have the power to require people to leave all permit premises not just special permit premises.

Clause 93 Inserts Part 2, Divisions 8, 9 and 10 (sections 98 to 104).

Sections 98 and 99 define the meaning of disciplinary action and the grounds for disciplinary action. Disciplinary action can involve: cancellation, variation or suspension of a permit or licence; a fine not exceeding 100 penalty units or a letter of censure.

Section 100 outlines the procedures for disciplinary action which involves: the Commissioner notifying the licensee or permit holder that it is considering disciplinary action; serving a written notice of its decision; and informing the licensee or permit holder of their right of appeal.

Section 101 allows the Commissioner to issue a letter of censure which directs a licensee or permit holder to undertake a specific action. If the letter of censure is not complied with the Commissioner may take further disciplinary action.

Section 102 allows the Commissioner to issue a fine as disciplinary action, which can be recovered as a debt due to the Crown.

Section 103 allows the Commissioner to suspend or cancel a licence or permit.

Section 104 allows the Commissioner to immediately suspend a licence or permit, in certain circumstances. If the suspension is appealed the Commission must sit to hear the appeal within 14 days.

Section 105 allows the Commissioner with the power to cancel or suspend a licence or permit on non-disciplinary grounds – such as if a licensee fails to pay prescribed fees.

Section 106 provides the Commissioner with the power to revoke or reduce a suspension.

Section 107 clarifies that the liability of a licensee or permit holder to action under Division 8 or 9 is not extinguished by loss of licence or permit.

Clause 94 Amends section 207 to allow the Commission to carry out enquires into person who are associates or prospective associates of permit holders as well as licensees.

Clause 95 Amends section 211 to provide for grammatical improvements and increase the matters for which a person may appeal to the Commission to reflect the changes to the Act outlined in previous clauses.

Amends section 212 by providing a time frame in which appeals against a decision made by the Commissioner must be made (that is, within 14 days of receiving notice of the decision or a longer period if the Commissioner considers it is appropriate in the interest of procedural fairness).

Requires that the appeal, once lodged, is heard by the Commission within a reasonable period of time.

Clause 97

Inserts section 220A, which provides for any application that is made to the Commissioner under the Act to be varied with approval from the Commissioner before the application is determined.

Clause 98

Inserts section 222B, which provides for the Minister to collect wholesale alcohol sales data from licensees. The information to be collected includes volume of liquor supplied, value of liquor supplied, type of liquor supplied, and any additional information prescribed in regulations.

The licensees required to provide the wholesale data is to be prescribed in regulations.

Clause 99

Omits an unnecessary definition from section 223.

Clause 100

Amends section 226 by broadening the areas where regulations may be made to cater for certain matters to be prescribed in regulations

For example, regulations are required to be made with respect to the sale and service of liquor by employees who are under the age of 18 years; matters relating to barring orders; evidence of age documents; and record keeping requirements.

Clause 101

Repeals the Liquor Licensing Amendment Act 1990.