



Shane Rattenbury MLA
ACT Greens Member for Molonglo

Ms Rubi Piekalns
Keep Canberra Open
Via email: rubi@keepcanberraopen.com.au

Dear Ms Piekalns

Thank you for contacting my office recently regarding your "Keep Canberra Open" campaign and the reform proposals presented in the ACT Government's Liquor Reform White Paper. I'd like to take this opportunity to provide the ACT Greens' position on these issues.

The ACT Greens do not support the "last drinks" proposal put forward in the Government's alcohol white paper. We believe there are many other ways to reduce alcohol related harms without hindering Canberra's developing nightlife and entertainment scene.

We are concerned that a 'last drinks' approach would shut down opportunities for nightlife and entertainment in Canberra when in fact we should be moving in the other direction - growing and developing Canberra's nightlife into something more diverse, vibrant and exciting.

The Greens want Canberra to have a thriving night time economy, diverse entertainment and live music, good transport options, and opportunities for everyone to enjoy our nightlife. This type of diversity also improves safety as we move away from nightlife focused around a few drinking establishments.

Our view is that there are many innovative ways to reduce alcohol-related violence without shutting down opportunities for Canberra's nightlife. The Liquor Reform White Paper has 39 other proposals for liquor reform that we can explore before we start to reduce night time trading hours.

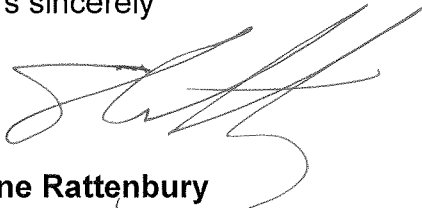
The Greens have always agreed that alcohol-related violence is terrible and addressing it is very important. In the last term of the Assembly we produced a discussion paper on alcohol related violence which has contributed to positive reforms in this area. The paper can be found at:
http://act.greens.org.au/sites/greens.org.au/files/discussion_paper-alcohol_related_violence.pdf

When it comes to addressing alcohol-related harms and improving our night time culture, the Greens would like to focus on:

- Licence reforms to encourage smaller bars, restaurants and live music to thrive in Canberra;
- A night time “mayor” or “commissioner” to promote night culture and work with business and residents and Government;
- Improving obligations on venues to serve alcohol responsibly and mitigate problem drinking;
- Responding to large volume alcohol sales that occur in off-licence premises, especially in problem areas.

Dealing with alcohol-related harms is important, but we don't need to do it by curbing Canberra's nightlife. We can have safety and entertainment at the same time.

Yours sincerely



Shane Rattenbury
ACT Greens MLA for Molonglo
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