



26 May 2009

VILLA NOOSA TRADING HOURS EXTENSION HORRIFYING

An application has been lodged by MGW Hotels Pty Ltd to extend trading hours at the Villa Noosa Hotel that would allow drinking and nightclub activities to continue on the premises until 5am 7 days a week.

Member for Noosa Glen Elmes said that he was horrified that a hotel owner would give even casual consideration to extended trading hours. The latest statistics confirm an increase in drunken brawls and domestic violence, especially in areas with late-trading hotels. Reports suggest that there's a clear link between extended trading hours and violence but in Queensland at least, not the political will to act.

"I do not agree under any circumstances with drinking hours extended to 5am and I particularly do not agree with drinking hours extended to 5am at a venue like the Villa Noosa which is, partially at least, in a residential area.

"My personal view is that suburban hotels, which the Villa Noosa effectively is, should have to substantiate to the Office of Liquor Gaming and Racing as to why they need to trade to 3am let alone 5am.

"I have posted the formal Notice of Application for Extended Trading Hours on my web site www.glenelmes.com and I also have copies available at my office for anyone who wants them.

"Objections to this application **close on Thursday 2 July** and I hope that many hundreds of Noosa residents will join with me in writing and lodging formal objections to this outrageous proposal. Those doing so will then be given an opportunity if they wish, to attend a formal hearing and speak to their objection.

"MGW Hotels is 75% owned by Woolworths which, on the supermarket side of their business at least, portrays itself as a 'community-friendly' business. They would do well to apply some of those ideals to the side of their business that deals in the liquor trade.

"I encourage Noosa residents to help me stop this ridiculous proposal in one or all of the following ways:

1. Lodge a written objection to the application details at www.glenelmes.com
2. Add your objection to the e-petition to be found at www.glenelmes.com
3. Sign the paper petition available at businesses in the Noosaville area or at my office at Noosa Civic Centre.

“There are too many tragedies and problems associated with excess alcohol: to consumers who abuse it and to the general public who are forced to suffer the consequences of it.

“I hope I can rely on Noosa residents to help me defeat this assault on our lifestyle.

For further information contact: Glen Elmes 5449 8988 or 0400 800 114

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