

Small Bar Association Launch

Lavan Legal 20 April 2009 5 pm

The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor Lisa Scaffidi

Other distinguished guests

Fellow members of the Association

Ladies and gentlemen

Four years ago a comprehensive review of the operations of the Liquor Licensing Act was conducted under the chairmanship of Mr Jim Freemantle.

The committee recommended moving towards:

- a restaurant/café culture,
- encouraging consumption in a more moderating climate, and
- greater flexibility in meeting needs of general public and tourists.

Comprehensive legislation to promote innovation diversity followed.

Two of the major reforms introduced, small bar licence and greater flexibility for restaurants.

In introducing the bill the Minister stated ‘*If anyone believes that WA is “dullsville” then these reforms will end that perception.*’

To put that sentiment into context and evaluate how long the process might take – I refer to 3 factual scenarios.

- 1 Forty years comprehensive Adams resulted in a new form of licence. The tavern to facilitate small local drinking establishments in the suburbs intimate bars in the city. Despite decades since very few taverns are much different from the traditional large vertical drinking establishments.
- 2 Victoria Dr John Nieuwenhuysen 1986 blue print for the Victorian government's overhaul of its Liquor Act took at least a good decade to flourish.
- 3 The experience of the 2 years since the reforms reflects the process will take a long time. There are plenty of obstacles and barriers to transforming the drinking scene in this state. It will take many years before facilities available in sufficient numbers community's awareness elevated for it to be said that reforms have ended Dullsville.

Consequently I resolved to set up the Small Bar Association of W.A. for both small bar licensees and equivalent distinctly different premises with special tourism appeal to be a networking and lobbying group.

Unlike the traditional associations of licensees which have for years resisted a change and have steadfastly opposed new licences, the Small Bar Association is a conduit to facilitating change and assisting aspirants to enter the industry. It will raise public awareness create vibrancy and visitation to the city of Perth.

To assist a number of professional, industry and sponsor members have been invited to join.

The response has been most enthusiastic. Significant membership base and a starting platform to take off from.

To officially launch the new organisation I call on the Lord Mayor.

- Call on Mr Jim Freemantle
- Call on Ms Kate Lamont one of the first persons asked and agreed to join.

Acknowledgements

- 1 Zanders Fine Foods Catering (Xavier Kris) (food and staff)
- 2 Kwik Kopy - Invitations, printing and design
- 3 WA Beverage Wholesalers (Vince Salpietro)
- 4 Gage Roads Brewing Company (Nick Hayler)
- 5 My partners at Lavan Legal to allow my liquor group to indulge so much time and effort on this venture on a pro bono basis.