



Media Release
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Forcing Queensland towards a nanny state

The Valley Liquor Accord has warned thousands of jobs will be lost and the economy will suffer a major down turn if venues are forced to close at either midnight or 2am under a Police Union submission into alcohol related violence.

VLA chairman Danny Blair said Queensland was becoming a nanny state as politicians and the police are trying to socially engineer our thoughts rather than tackling the hard decision of implementing tougher penalties and education programs.

"We are dangerously heading down the path of being a 'nanny state'," Mr Blair said.

"Social engineering Queenslanders puts us in danger of returning to the Joh era.

"We need to educate our young and start making people responsible for their own actions through tougher penalties," he said.

Mr Blair said the Government had introduced significant fees on licensees this year for harm minimisation programs and for extra policing of the Valley where 70,000 people descend each weekend.

"It is disappointing that the State government in one breathe wants venues to use plastic cups, yet drains more than half a million dollars off Valley venues for harm minimisation and we haven't seen a cent spent.

"This plan will costs thousands of jobs and take hundreds of thousands of dollars out of the Queensland economy."



He said venues had proven to be far safer than streets because of a lack of police presence when it is needed most - when venues start to close.

"Whether it be 2am, 3am or 5am, police are needed on the street," Mr Blair said.

"We have more than 160 licensed security working within the Fortitude Valley licensed venues on an given weekend night.

"Yet, despite 70,000 people heading into the Valley on a weekend, only a dozen or so policemen are patrolling the streets when patrons pour out the doors at lockout.

"What is a 2.00am closing time going to really achieve?" he said.

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For further information

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