

POP-UP BARS — PERTH

296. Mr J.N. CAREY to the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

I refer to the ongoing concern about the nature, duration and impact of temporary pop-up bars in Perth. Can the minister outline to the house what action the McGowan Labor government will take in response to these concerns?

Mr P. PAPALIA replied:

I thank the member for his question and for his unrivalled advocacy on behalf of the tourism and hospitality sector, both in his electorate and right around the state.

The member for Perth has raised a very pertinent and relevant question. Everyone in this chamber will be aware that in recent times, probably over the last five years, there has been a proliferation of so-called pop-up bars across the state, particularly in the metropolitan area. They have been embraced as an addition to the hospitality sector in the creation of additional vibrancy and options within the tourism space. However, it has been recognised for some time now—this was not responded to by the previous government—that they have a significant and damaging impact on established premises. Established premises have in recent years repeatedly raised the need to respond to the proliferation of these pop-up bars and the scale at which they are being established.

As a government, we recognise that we have a responsibility to ensure that these businesses operate within the spirit of the law, not just the letter of the law. In the last two months, my office has been engaged with the director of Liquor Licensing in ensuring that the department's policy best supports the law as it is intended to be implemented. This includes ensuring that the occasional liquor licences used by pop-ups are granted on a temporary basis, and that events of a large scale in nature, with more than 500 people expected to attend, complete a public interest assessment and advertise so that members of the community can have their say on the impact.

I would also today like to bring to the attention of the house that I understand the director of Liquor Licensing is now close to finalising this policy, taking into account useful feedback from key stakeholders, including the Australian Hotels Association, the Small Bar Association, WA Nightclubs Association and the Big N. I thank them for their valuable contributions. I would also like to acknowledge input by members opposite and members in the other place, including the member for South Perth, members for Mining and Pastoral Region, the member for South West Region, the member for North Metropolitan Region and, of course, the member for Perth, for their representation and support in this matter.

I make it very clear that the policy will be implemented shortly. However, it is not the end of the process. We will continue to monitor this to ensure the policy meets the requirements of the community.