



Hon Peter Lawlor MP
Member for Southport



Minister for Tourism and Fair Trading

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- 4 JUN 2009

Mr Steve Knott
Chief Executive
Australian Mines and Metals Association
Level 1, 200 Creek Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Knott

I refer to your letters of 8 December 2008 and 16 January 2009 to the former Minister responsible for Liquor, Gaming and Racing, the Honourable Andrew Fraser MP, regarding the retention of current trading hours for licensed premises on mining sites.

I note that this issue was discussed with representatives from your office and the Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing on 11 December 2008.

As you may be aware, the reforms to the *Liquor Act 1992* confirmed ordinary trading hours of 10am to 12 midnight for all licensees, which were divided into community and commercial licences.

Commercial licences are excluded from general trade from 7am to 9am to reduce the availability of alcohol to the community at this time. The only exception is for commercial special facility licences that relate to casinos and airports, which are permitted 24 hour trading. Trading is permissible for commercial licensees from 9am to 10am upon application and proof of demonstrated need. Transitional provisions in the *Liquor Act* resulted in the expiry of permits which authorised trading outside of ordinary trading hours on 1 January 2009.

Mining canteens operating prior to 1 January 2009 under a limited licence have been unaffected by the changes to trading hours. However, the legislation currently does not allow for any future mining canteens to operate for general trade prior to 9am.

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I acknowledge that mining canteens for shift workers are subject to a strict harm minimisation regime. Subject to ongoing responsible management, licensed premises on mining sites appear to present a low risk of harm from the abuse or misuse of alcohol. As such, I am pleased to advise that an amendment to the Liquor Act has been proposed to enable the chief executive to determine the trading hours of these premises on a case by case basis.

The amendment is being progressed through the *Resorts and Other Acts Amendment Bill 2009*, which was introduced into Parliament on 19 May 2009. While I cannot provide you with certainty regarding passage of the Bill, I trust that the action taken alleviates your concern about this matter.

If you require further information or assistance, please contact Mr Michael Sarquis, Executive Director, Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing, on telephone (07) 3872 0800.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Lawlor', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Peter Lawlor MP
Minister for Tourism and Fair Trading