

NEWS

City seeks brothel clarification



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AN EXEMPTION for the three brothels on Hay Street to operate under the new prostitution bill is no closer to being formalised.

Under the draft bill, released for public comment last month, brothels within 100m of residences will not be allowed to operate.

As the *Kalgoorlie Miner* revealed, this would mean the three Kalgoorlie-Boulder brothels, Questa Casa, Langtrees and the Red House, would be forced to close.

A three-bedroom house on Lane Street is well within 50m of Questa Casa and it is still ambiguous whether a backpackers' lodge and a mining camp on Hay Street would also be considered residences.

City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder councillors on Monday voted in favour of sending a letter to Attorney General Christian Porter seeking further advice on this issue.

However, the State Government has previously told the *Miner* it wanted to work with the city on an exemption for the brothels, and it had not intended for them to close as part of the new laws.

Mr Porter this week reaffirmed this position to the *Miner*, saying the Government would continue to work with local government on the exemption.

"Therefore exactly how the clause will be drafted depends on clarifying precisely which businesses or geographical area on Hay Street the city will accept as being treated as a special case," he said.

"So the drafters (of the bill) can review the planning rules which presently apply to those businesses or areas, and produce wording which will ensure those businesses are not affected."

Mr Porter said the exemption could apply similarly to the City of Perth in the draft bill.

"In other words, within a predefined area described in the bill, the distance limits from residences would not apply, and brothels would only be prohibited where buildings actually contained residences," he said.

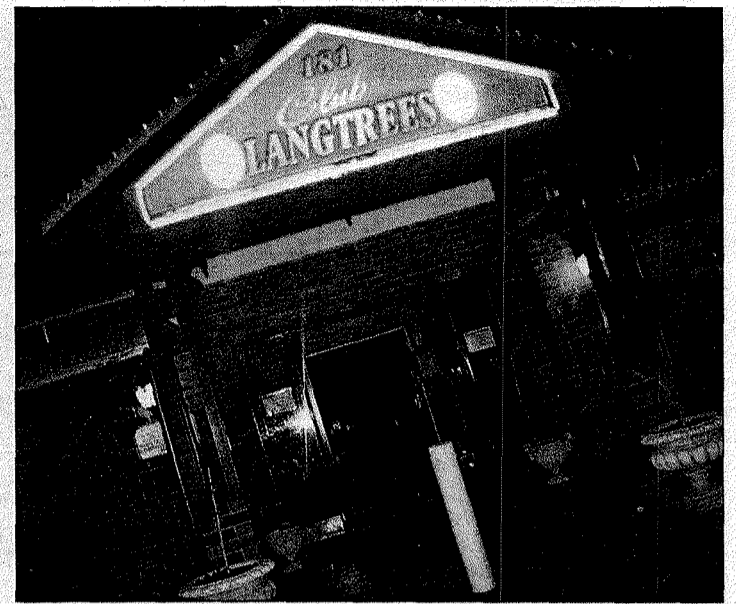
City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder Mayor Ron Yuryevich said the council's position was for brothels only to be allowed on Hay Street.

"We'll accept that they (brothels) can be there because we are going to be directed to have an area for them anyway," he said.

"That's part of the heritage of Kalgoorlie-Boulder and the historical facts of Kalgoorlie-Boulder.

"So that's the area where we would want to see them concentrated in and nowhere else."

The closing date for submissions on the prostitution bill is July 29.



Hay Street feature: Langtrees 181 is well known to visitors and residents alike. Photo: SHARON GUARDIA



Beloved landmark: The Esperance Tanker Jetty. Photo: ALANA BUCKLEY-CARR

Jetty needs \$14m repairs

THE Shire of Esperance faces more than \$14 million in costs to repair the historic Esperance Tanker Jetty.

Engineering firm BG&E recently completed a full structural assessment of the jetty and formally presented its findings to the Shire Council and Esperance residents during meetings on Monday.

Esperance Shire president Ian Mickel said the council would move to impose restrictions on access to the 78-year-old jetty due to its unstable structure.

"They presented a full examination of the conditions of the jetty, which are significantly worse than

any of us would have anticipated," Mr Mickel said.

"It's not going to fall down tomorrow, but the council will be looking to put in some restrictions to access if there's a storm or other inclement weather conditions."

He said the public meeting had gone well, with residents getting a chance to voice their concerns.

"The general feeling from the public was 'we love our jetty, and we want it to stay' - which is something the council supports," Mr Mickel said.

"If it needs to be replaced, they'd like to see some of the heritage factors and length retained, but I think they also accept trying

to rebuild it would be more expensive than building a new jetty in some instances."

He acknowledged the project was a significant commitment and said the council would look to the State Government for support with the project.

"Given what happened in Busseton with their jetty, we believe we have a good case to go to the Government and seek support," Mr Mickel said.

"We'll certainly be looking for a significant capital contribution, so we can keep a jetty in Esperance."

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Alcohol health warnings

HEALTH warnings are set to begin appearing on bottles and cans of beer, wine and spirits after the liquor industry decided to take voluntary action.

Released under the DrinkWise Australia banner, the campaign includes three key campaign messages: "Kids and Alcohol don't mix"; "Is your drinking harming yourself or others?"; and "It is safest not to drink while pregnant."

The campaign also encourages consumers to find out the facts by visiting the DrinkWise website.

With producers responsible for 80 per cent of alcohol sold in Australia behind the campaign, the labels are expected to cover the majority of Australia's popular drink choices.

DrinkWise board chair Trish Worth said evidence showed consumers broadly supported health warnings.

"(We are) providing messages which prompt consumers to think about their drinking, and supporting those messages with ongoing education activities and supporting the community in making informed decisions about their approach to drinking alcohol," Ms Worth said.

But Kalgoorlie-Boulder bottleshop owner Darby Renton said he did not think the initiative would have much of



Trish Worth

an effect. "The labels haven't really affected the sale of cigarettes, so I can't see it changing alcohol much either," Mr Renton said.

"Most of these initiatives have already been tried and haven't worked, so it's really just pandering to the do-gooders after a certain point."

SAM TOMLIN

Adventurous travellers

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HOWEVER, it hasn't been all smooth sailing for the pair after they were hit by a car just outside of Esperance.

Carrot said the incident was not too serious.

"We got clipped by a car on the way into Esperance which dented the bike a bit," he said.

"Coffee managed to jump clear, but I lost a bit of skin on my side and my face.

"The guy who hit us was probably in worse shape, as I think he went into shock.

"In the end we were probably trying to calm him down rather than the other way round."

Despite the occasional setback, the pair manage to ride up to 80km per day and are making the journey without support veh-

icles. People wishing to follow the pair's progress can go to www.carrotand-coffee.com which shows their satellite position.

Donations can also be made at the website.

MICHAEL PHILIPPS

Mystery surrounds site evacuation

PERSONNEL were evacuated from a Kalgoorlie Consolidated Gold Mines site following an unknown incident yesterday morning.

The revelation came after Kalgoorlie-Boulder residents called into a local radio complaining of a strange alarm that could be heard across Boulder, South Kalgoorlie and nearby.

KCGM general manager Russell

Cole has confirmed an emergency took place, with staff receiving minor first aid treatment at one of KCGM's two local sites.

However, yesterday the company would not release details about what the emergency was or at which site it took place.

KCGM received an unidentified emergency radio call at about 7.20am yesterday, according to a statement.

"In accordance with our emergency response protocols, an emergency alarm was sounded while all personnel on site were evacuated and accounted for," Mr Cole said.

"The emergency has since been identified, with only minor first aid treatment being required.

"We are pleased to report everyone is safe and well."

RANIA SPOONER

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