

**Liquor Amendment Bill
(Serial 74)**

Ms Fyles (Attorney-General and Justice): The Economic Policy Scrutiny Committee, following introduction of this bill in November 2018, called for submissions. I thank the Chair of the committee, the Member for Brennan, and members of the committee. They tabled their report earlier this week with a number of recommendations. In the interests of time, I will not read those.

These recommendations have been accepted by the government. Recommendations 1-5 have been accepted; recommendations 2-4 will be addressed during the committee stage. In relation to recommendation five, this will take place during the consultation of the *Liquor Act* review. There will be an exposure draft bill and will come back into the parliament for scrutiny.

I thank the Parliamentary Counsel for drafting the amendments. These have been circulated. Members were notified yesterday that we intended to accept the committee's recommendations. Briefings were offered to all members.

The bill will commence on a day fixed by the Administrator by Gazette notice and is expected soon after assent. The Liquor Commission and the acting Director-General of Licensing NT will inform relevant stakeholders of the procedural changes as required and by notice when the Liquor Commission does resolve to hold a public hearing. Police will take the necessary steps to implement the changes necessary to their general orders and training to incorporate these changes in relation to the POSI and undercover operations.

This bill is an important step in our alcohol reform agenda and we have continued to work through this in a systematic manner. We have brought in many pieces of legislation and have a significant rewrite of the *Liquor Act*. We need to tackle alcohol related crime in our community and this bill provides our police with tools to do so. It ensure the public can be engaged through the Liquor Commission process.

I acknowledge the ARIT team as well as the team at the Department of the Attorney-General and Justice—the very hard working team there who have lead the development of this bill. I also acknowledge the Office of Parliamentary Counsel for their work in drafting this bill, in the committee's recommendations and making sure we have those amendments to pass this bill in a timely manner.

I commend the bill to the House and I look forward to the debate in the committee stage.

Motion agreed to; bill read a second time.