



# **RACHEL NOLAN MP**

## **Member for Ipswich**

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### **MEDIA STATEMENT**

A strategy is currently being developed to ensure public safety at night in the Ipswich CBD, Member for Ipswich Rachel Nolan said today.

“The strategy has come about in response to concerns raised by police about incidents both in licensed venues and in the streets.

“There is no need to be alarmed. We are dealing with a relatively small number of incidents and there should be no doubt that the streets of Ipswich are safer than they were before the introduction of Safe City cameras and active policing measures and that, broadly speaking, they are getting safer all the time.

“Despite these improvements we should not be complacent. The current strategy is not about dealing with an unsafe environment, it’s about ensuring that the streets of Ipswich are as safe as they possibly can be.

Ms Nolan said that Liquor Licensing had advised her that Players Nightclub had recently faced disciplinary action after serious concerns about responsible service of alcohol and public safety were identified. Liquor Licensing have ordered Players to improve safety through employing police onsite, installing Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) and reducing their licensed hours.

“Liquor Licensing have made it clear to me that Players should be in no doubt that if they do not improve their safety record they face the possibility of being shut down.

“In addition to this process, Liquor Licensing, Police and local clubs and publicans are working on a strategy for city wide public safety. This strategy is considering issues around responsible service of alcohol, policing and the possibility of 1am lock-out.

“These possibilities are all on the table and we have a very constructive process involving government agencies and the publicans through the Liquor Industry Action Group. There should be no mistake that the number one priority here is maintaining community safety.

I am advised that the strategy will be complete by **1 April 2005**.