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MEDIA RELEASE

**CDP SUPPORTS GOVERNMENT LAWS TO
FURTHER REGULATE THE SALE OF ALCOHOL**

For immediate circulation

On 15 October, the Rev Fred Nile MLC supported the latest government attempts to regulate the sale of alcohol to the community, particularly online. Below is an extract of Rev Nile's speech extracted from the Parliamentary *Hansard*.

LIQUOR AMENDMENT (24-HOUR ECONOMY) BILL 2020

Wednesday 15 October 2020

Reverend the Hon. FRED NILE (11:34:38): I speak in support of the Liquor Amendment (24-Hour Economy) Bill 2020. I congratulate the Government on the hard work it put into preparing the legislation, which is very extensive and covers many areas. I will refer to three letters that I have received, one from the Salvation Army Australia Territory and two from Cancer Council NSW, which have expressed concerns regarding the bill. The head of government relations at the Salvation Army sent a letter dated 8 October. It states:

As you may be aware, the government has tabled the Bill and it is currently scheduled for debate in the Legislative Council on 13 October 2020. We are concerned about amendments that have been made to the Bill since consultation in May 2020 and request that you consider amendments that will keep families safe.

It goes on to say:

We are concerned that the measure in the Bill to verify the age of the purchaser before selling alcohol online has been removed since the draft Bill underwent public consultation. This change will be detrimental to the health and safety of children in NSW and occurred following extensive lobbying

from the alcohol industry. Yet the requirement has strong support – most people in NSW (87%) think age should be verified in order to purchase alcohol online.

It is disappointing that changes have been made since the consultation concluded. Although they are not major changes, they impact on the effectiveness of the legislation. I ask the Government to reconsider those changes. I also have a letter from Cancer Council NSW dated 12 October. It states:

I am writing to you in relation to the Liquor Amendment (24-Hour Economy) Bill 2020.

...

Cancer Council NSW supports the amendment moved by Dr Joe McGirr, Member for Wagga Wagga. The amendment introduces the power to conduct controlled purchasing operations and is an important tool to ensure the effective monitoring and enforcement of the new regulatory standards for same day alcohol deliveries. Controlled purchasing operations are used to support other public health measures such as in tobacco control.

I draw those matters to the Government's attention. In another very extensive letter dated 23 September 2020, Cancer Council NSW goes on to say that it "supports the proposed reforms to online sale and same-day delivery of alcohol contained in the Liquor Amendment (24-Hour Economy) Bill 2020." It states:

Cancer Council NSW also recommends amendments to the Bill to improve the effectiveness of the new regulatory framework and better protect children and the community from the harmful effects of alcohol. They give a lot of information supporting their views. The conclusion of the letter reads: Cancer Council NSW also welcomes the introduction of an offence for alcohol deliveries being supplied to a person who is intoxicated. The responsible service for alcohol has been a long standing requirement for licensed premises.

I draw the attention of the House to those points made by the Cancer Council and by the Salvation Army. The Christian Democratic Party supports the bill.

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