

Our Business

Brothel licensing

At year end, there were 26 licensed brothels in Queensland.

Table 4: Licensed brothels in Queensland at 30 June 2015

Address	Name of Brothel	Date Opened	Telephone Contact
Brisbane City Council			
88 Logan Rd, Woolloongabba	88 on Logan	13.06.03	3891 1198
1/32 Meadow Ave, Coopers Plains	Asian Star on Meadow	12.06.09	3216 7222
12 Nile St, Woolloongabba	Cleo's on Nile	22.10.05	3393 1678
83 Randolph St, Rocklea	Happy Place 8	15.05.09	3875 2088
120 Robinson Rd, Geebung	Miso Honey	02.05.02	3865 6066
180 Abbotsford Rd, Bowen Hills	Montecito	30.02.06	3852 2057
61 Spine St, Sumner Park	Sensations on Spine	28.07.11	3279 2928
175 Abbotsford Rd, Bowen Hills	Platinum 175	25.04.14	3854 0032
945 Fairfield Rd, Yeerongpilly	The Viper Room	17.05.02	3392 7070
476 Boundary Rd, Archerfield	Yimi 476	24.08.05	3277 7318
Cairns Regional Council			
11 Cava Cl, Bungalow	Northern Belle	29.12.06	4033 5955
7 Owen Cl, Portsmouth	Oriental Doll	06.06.13	4041 6805
Gold Coast City Council			
1/29 Expansion St, Molendinar	Luvasian	02.09.05	5564 5599
30 Jade Dr, Nerang	Pentagon Grand	12.04.02	5597 0777
13/38 Eastern Service Rd, Stapylton	Pryana Rose	26.09.13	3382 0945
12 Greg Chappell Dr, Burleigh Heads	Secret Liaisons Gold Coast	09.03.02	5522 1400
44 Upton St, Bundall	Silks on Upton	12.03.02	5538 2088
37 Upton St, Bundall	Utopia in Paradise	01.07.06	5539 0224
Logan City Council			
26 Magnesium Dr, Crestmead	Club 26	19.11.05	3803 1000
Mackay Regional Council			
39 Enterprise St, Paget	Club 7 on Enterprise	08.07.02 ceased to operate 07.07.15	4952 6767

Moreton Bay Regional Council 22 Brewer St, Clontarf	Intimate Encounters	20.08.03	3283 6111
Sunshine Coast Regional Council 13 Cessna St, Marcoola	Lush	04.07.14	5450 7773
14 Avian St, Kunda Park	Scarlet Harem	13.12.02	5476 5044
Toowoomba Regional Council 1/14 Civil Court, Harlaxton	Deviations	12.09.09	4613 1133
Townsville City Council 17 Hugh Ryan Dr, Garbutt	Australian Maid	01.07.02 ceased to operate 01.07.15	4725 5888
15 Carmel St, Garbutt	Bluebirds on Carmel	01.10.03 to 30.09.10 08.12.11	4779 9555

Note: A number of these brothels have previously traded under different names.

In order to legally operate a brothel in Queensland, the owner must apply for and be granted a brothel licence by the PLA. Only a person that has applied for and been granted an approved manager's certificate by the PLA may lawfully manage a licensed brothel. Applications are considered on their merits and in order to grant a licence or certificate to an applicant the PLA must be satisfied that the applicant is a suitable person.

In 2014-15, there were 40 brothel licence applications, comprising six new applications, 27 annual returns and 7 renewals¹ (table 5). Of the new licence applications, two were granted, and four were withdrawn. Of the licence renewal applications, six were granted, and the remaining application will be considered by the PLA in 2015-16.

There were a total of 121 approved manager's certificate applications in 2014-15, comprising 47 new applications, 57 annual returns and 17 renewals (table 5). Of the new certificate applications, 34 were granted, three were refused, five were withdrawn and the remaining five applications will be considered by the PLA in 2015-16. The three applications that were refused were on the basis of reputation, having regard to character, honesty, and integrity. Of the 17 certificate renewal applications, all were granted.

Table 5: Applications received 2014-15

	Brothel licences	Approved manager's certificates
New applications	6	47
Annual returns	27	57
Renewal applications	7	17
Total	40	121

¹ Brothels may be owned by more than one individual. Each of those individuals must hold a licence. The number of brothel licences therefore exceeds the number of licensed brothels.

Development approval

In Queensland, the licensing and location of brothels are two separate matters administered by two different levels of government. The PLA is a State Government agency and it is responsible for the licensing of individuals to operate a brothel. On the other hand, local councils are responsible for deciding development approval applications in respect of brothels. Under Schedule 1 of the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*, a brothel must:

- have no more than five working rooms
- be greater than 200 metres distance (measured according to the shortest lawful route) from a primarily residential area or an area approved for residential development or intended to be residential in character
- be greater than 200 metres distance (measured according to the shortest lawful route) and greater than 100 metres (measured in a straight line) from any residential building, place of worship, hospital, school, kindergarten, or any other place regularly frequented by children for recreational or cultural activities.

In order to receive development approval, a brothel must also comply with the IDAS Code for licensed brothels.

From the beginning of the licensed brothel framework, there have been 57 applications made to local governments in Queensland for development approval for a brothel (table 6). The majority of development applications for brothels have been for premises in the Brisbane and Gold Coast areas. In excess of half of all applications have been approved. In 2014-15, Brisbane City Council approved a development application for a site at Rocklea. The PLA received a brothel licence application in respect of this site but it was subsequently withdrawn by the applicant.

Where a brothel development application is subject to code assessment under the Sustainable Planning Act, the applicant may apply to the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT) under s. 64A of the Prostitution Act for review of a range of decisions, including a decision to refuse, or refuse part of, the application. If it is determined a brothel development application requires impact assessment under the Sustainable Planning Act, under s. 64B of the Prostitution Act, the applicant may apply to QCAT for a review of that decision.

There are nine premises in Queensland for which local government authorities have granted development approval for a brothel, but which do not currently have an operational brothel and for which the PLA did not receive a brothel licence application in 2014-15 (table 7).

In early 2014-15, a brothel opened on the Sunshine Coast at a site that already had development approval for a brothel and that was the site of a defunct brothel.

Because a site has approval for a brothel it does not necessarily mean it will be put to that use and other non-sex industry businesses might instead operate from that site. For example, 28 Leyland St, Garbutt (Townsville), received development approval in November 2000 but there has never been a brothel at the site. Likewise, 10/68 Redland Bay Rd, Capalaba, received development approval in November 2006 but there has never been a brothel at the site. The brothel at 48 Callemondah Dr, Gladstone, ceased operation in May 2008 and the site has not operated as a brothel since.

In accordance with Schedule 1 of the Sustainable Planning Act, for land in a town with a population of less than 25,000, the local government for the area may make an application to the Minister responsible for the administration of that Act requiring that all development applications for brothels within the area be prohibited. The agreement of the Minister is required. More than 200 towns in Queensland have received approval to prohibit brothel development applications.

Table 6: Development approval applications for brothel premises since the commencement of the licensed brothel framework

Local authority	Approved	Refused	Withdrawn/ lapsed	Pending	TOTAL
Brisbane	13	4	2	-	19
Gold Coast	7	2	3	-	12
Townsville	3	-	1	-	4
Cairns	3	1	3	-	7
Logan	2	-	1	-	3
Sunshine Coast	2	-	1	-	3
Redland	1	-	-	-	1
Toowoomba	1	2	-	-	3
Moreton Bay	1	-	-	-	1
Rockhampton	1	-	-	-	1
Mackay	1	-	-	-	1
Gladstone	1	-	-	-	1
Mount Isa	1	-	-	-	1
TOTAL	36	9	11	1	57

Note: Based on information provided to the PLA by local governments.

Table 7: Council approved premises on which there is not an operational brothel and for which the PLA did not receive a brothel licence application in 2014-15

Local authority	Address
Brisbane	1/9 Alton St, Coopers Plains 1090 – 1110 Kingsford Smith Dr, Eagle Farm
Cairns	5 Southgate Cl, Woree
Gladstone	48 Callemondah Dr, Gladstone
Gold Coast	5/47 Newheath Dr, Arundel
Logan	3509 Pacific Hwy, Slacks Creek
Redland	10/68 Redland Bay Rd, Capalaba
Rockhampton	17 Bush Cres, Parkhurst
Townsville	28 Leyland St, Garbutt