



Speech by

Mr J. HEGARTY

MEMBER FOR REDLANDS

Hansard 17 November 1998

GAMBLING STATISTICS, REDLAND BAY

Mr HEGARTY (Redlands—NPA) (10.25 a.m.): Last Tuesday's Courier-Mail splash lead story on the State's gambling statistics has the residents of Redland Bay in my electorate confused and bemused at being labelled resident high rollers in one of Queensland's top 10 gambling capitals. Based on the Queensland Office of Gaming Regulation's newsletter, the good citizens of Redland Bay, or at least the 73,860 over 18s found by the statisticians to be living there, turned over \$1,848 per head on 105 gaming machines in the period studied. This is quite an accomplishment even by the standards of the most dedicated gamblers. But considering the area boasts only a single pub and one club, with only 50 gaming machines between them, this is an improbable result.

Before Gamblers Anonymous descends on our quiet community, I am happy to report to the House that Redland Bay made it into the list only by error—by default, so to speak. It was, in fact, the fault of the QOGR, which apparently confuses the small seaside community with the entire Shire of Redland. For the record, on the basis of the postcodes used by the QOGR to commit this statistical stitch-up, they included suburbs such as Capalaba and Cleveland, which are not in my constituency. In fact, they are in adjoining Labor electorates, ironically represented by the party that likes to promote itself as the real high roller of Queensland politics.

There is a serious point. It is that people and organisations that want to be taken seriously need to make sure that they are seriously on the mark when they publish their results. The issue of gaming is one that we need to take very seriously. The studies conducted by the QOGR are very valuable—give or take a postcode or a name change or two—and deserve to be commended. However, I request the responsible Minister, the Honourable the Treasurer, to ensure the accuracy of future QOGR newsletters.
