



Speech by

DESLEY BOYLE

MEMBER FOR CAIRNS

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ANZAC DAY TRADING HOURS

Ms BOYLE (Cairns—ALP) (6.32 p.m.): I do not believe that the Bill needs to be brought forward on the Notice Paper for some reasons of logic as well as some reasons of recognising the importance of Anzac Day. A poignant pen picture has been created for us all tonight and in discussions, I dare say, in many electorates about this matter. Two incidents have actually occurred; two only in this whole State of Queensland were reported. But the pen picture that has been painted for us—this fantasy—is of this massive disruption all over the State to thousands of marchers whose whole day will be ruined and their record of having served this fine country somehow smeared. That is a gross exaggeration of the actual and factual situation.

I will put forward some facts that bear on the argument before the House this evening. All other States and Territories treat Anzac Day eve as a normal day. There is trading well into the early hours of the morning. Surely the honourable members of this House, especially those on the Opposition side, would not be suggesting that all those members of all those Parliaments in all those other States are uncaring or have forgotten or walked past the Anzac spirit—not at all. In Victoria there is extended trading up to 7 a.m.; Tasmania, out of hours permits to 5 a.m.; South Australia, 5 a.m.; Western Australia, 3 a.m.; New South Wales, 5 a.m.; and the Northern Territory, 4 a.m. It is not at all a matter that has any precedent in Australia.

Here are some more facts. Following mention of this matter during earlier weeks of sitting, the Liquor Licensing Division contacted every other State and Territory to see whether they have ever experienced any problems with dawn services being disrupted by persons leaving licensed premises. None—absolutely none! Each State and Territory say that they have never had a problem and have never received any complaints.

I note that there is much intelligence in the House on many occasions, but I wonder whether it is deserting us tonight. Two incidents have been reported, and in response to those incidents we want a dramatic curtailment of the freedoms of Queenslanders as the solution? I would have thought that we could think more clearly. Instead, I put to the House that that would be an excessive and inappropriate response to two small incidents. But the most important response has been one that has occurred and which all of us, as members of this honourable House, could encourage to be further expressed in loud and obvious terms right across the State of Queensland. That is an expression of community outrage—outrage that such people should consider, whether in a drunken state or otherwise, disrupting this important occasion and warning them that should they do so, not only will the police be present, but the community will indeed know who they are and their punishment will surely be more severe than any punishment that the police could hand out. That is the kind of response that we should take—a social and a community response, not a response that, I must say, would be gross and inappropriate in a city such as Cairns.

It was only yesterday that this House heard me speak, and with excitement, of the CBD revitalisation program in Cairns and of the excitement that we have about making sure that this international tourism destination, which has on average 10,000 visitors to the broader Cairns area on any given night of the year, will have facilities open and available to them. We are talking further about making this a 24-hour city so that all of us—whatever our business in the city, whether it is for revelry and entertainment in the evening or whether it is arriving on a plane at 3 a.m.—will have facilities open

and available. That that city should have to shut down because of two isolated incidents is not an intelligent response.

I am pleased to say that I have had discussions with our local Assistant Commissioner of Police, Bob Atkinson, who, I have noted during my nine months as the member for Cairns, responds immediately and effectively to complaints and concerns from the community about safety and security. The police will be working with the community to make sure that Anzac Day is just as important and just as well celebrated as ever and that those whose service resulted in death or disability are not forgotten.

Time expired.
