



Speech by

**KEN TURNER**

**MEMBER FOR THURINGOWA**

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Hansard 25 November 1999

**LIQUOR OUTLET AND GAMBLING FACILITIES, KIRWAN**

**Mr TURNER** (Thuringowa—IND) (10.21 a.m.): Thuringowa residents are distressed and very annoyed over approval being given by the Thuringowa City Council for the construction of a hotel bistro. An application has also been made for gaming machines and a three-lane bottle shop in Bamford Lane, Kirwan. There is a shopping centre at this site, and it has been there quite a long time. They do not object to this, but an application was lodged with council to convert the building to include a hotel with gambling and a drive-in bottle shop. This has become a major issue with residents and they are objecting angrily.

They have been told that, under the town planning Act, they cannot object and council has no option but to approve the plans. It is an absurd situation when a council development acceptable to the neighbours can be replaced by a development that the community finds unacceptable, without having any right to object. Only the plans for the original businesses were ever advertised for community comment. This business may never be built. It may even be replaced by something completely different. But, under the present guidelines for a material change of use, this has to be accepted by local council and the public. When the people's right to object are taken away, this cannot be good legislation. We must protect our community. Any proposed change of use from the publicly accepted original proposal should be advertised again for objections. I call on the Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities to revisit this unjust legislation.

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