



Speech by

Dr DAVID WATSON

MEMBER FOR MOGGILL

Hansard 8 November 2000

JUPITERS CASINO AGREEMENT AMENDMENT BILL

Dr WATSON (Moggill—LP) (Leader of the Liberal Party) (12.49 p.m.): I rise to speak on the Jupiters Casino Agreement Amendment Bill 2000. The Jupiters Casino legislation has really enjoyed bipartisan support ever since the legislation was originally introduced back in the 1980s. Obviously the original legislation formed the foundation of the development of casinos in Queensland, and other casino developments have actually followed the kind of legislative framework that was set up by that Bill.

This Bill is one which also continues to enjoy bipartisan support. As I said in relation to the other Bills, the Opposition will certainly be facilitating its passage through the House in an expeditious fashion. The objective of this Bill is really twofold. One is to do one of the things that the Scrutiny of Legislation Committee always seems to commend Ministers for, which is removing Henry VIII clauses, and this Bill does that. I notice that the Scrutiny of Legislation Committee gave the normal tick for doing the right thing, and appropriately so.

Mr Hamill interjected.

Dr WATSON: I do not think I will go into that one.

Mr Hamill: We have done more than five.

Dr WATSON: But the member has not beheaded anyone.

Mr Hamill: Not at all.

Dr WATSON: They certainly do guillotine a lot of things through here; there is no question about that.

I think it is appropriate that whenever we can when we are looking at changes to the legislation we actually remove Henry VIII clauses. They are an anachronism these days. It is generally understood that one should not attempt to alter other Acts of Parliament by way of regulation of a different Act. That is essentially what Henry VIII clauses facilitate.

The second aspect of this Bill which is important is that it will facilitate the further development of the Jupiters Casino hotel complex. There has been concern on the Gold Coast for some time in regard to the development of a further complex or the development of something that resembles the complex on the south side of Brisbane. While this Bill in and of itself does not raise money or anything like that, it will facilitate the development of the hotel complex, and that is something which again enjoys bipartisan support.

Finally, a third aspect of this Bill is to simplify the agreement. The original agreement was made back in the early eighties. Since that time there have been a number of changes to relevant gaming legislation and there have been a number of other technological changes that will allow some simplification of the agreements. The Opposition will be supporting the Bill, and we are pleased to do so.
