



Speech by

CATE MOLLOY

MEMBER FOR NOOSA

Hansard 31 May 2001

WINE INDUSTRY AMENDMENT BILL

Ms MOLLOY (Noosa—ALP) (5.22 p.m.): The Minister for Tourism and Racing and Minister for Fair Trading is to be congratulated for bringing this bill forward. It is confirmation that the Labor government is committed to supporting Queensland industries—in this case, the wine industry—by fostering investment in and growth of the industry and regulating the industry in a way compatible with minimising harm arising from the misuse of liquor. Because of the introduction of this bill, the Queensland wine industry will experience greater strength due to the proposed amendments. A wine producer will operate under similar conditions to current licences, therefore diminishing inconvenience to those already holding licences. They will be able to sell their wine for take-away purposes or as a sample. With approval, they will be able to sell wine on the premises or sell it at other venues which can operate as a remote cellar door. They will be able to sell other wine, including blends, provided they do not sell more of the other wine than their own in a year.

A wine merchant licence will allow the sale of wine for take-away purposes or as a sample. Wine merchants will also be able to sell their wine for consumption on the premises. They will not, however, be able to operate a remote cellar door as wine producers can, as the amendment to section 9 requires that a wine merchant licence must relate to only one premises. This provision will prevent statewide retail chains and supermarkets from setting up one token wine business and then setting up a de facto operation through remote cellar doors. This will obviously give the Queensland wine industry the necessary protection from being destroyed. After all, multinational supermarkets have no loyalty to our wine industry.

In relation to the labelling of wine products, the legislation requires that consumers are not misled in any way, which again contributes to an industry which is so highly valued nationally and internationally. Nations across the world are acknowledged and respected for their quality wines, as is Australia. As part of this nation, Queensland wines are establishing themselves in that international market. As an aspect of the tourism industry, what a great way to herald this state's great achievements by underpinning industry with progressive legislation. Also, the blending provisions will be repealed as they are deemed no longer relevant.

In relation to nominees, clause 10 omits section 13, which relates to nominees for new or existing licences and replaces it with a section that reflects the two categories of licence. The underlying philosophy is to ensure that there is an adult responsible for each licence and, where other places are involved, for each place, as is explained in this section. As cited in the explanatory notes, a nominee is mandatory when the applicant is a corporation which is already a licensee or when there is more than one person. A nominee is also mandatory where the holder of a wine producer licence wishes to sell wine at other premises other than the main venue. Therefore, the nominee is for the other premises only if stated in the licence.

Underpinning the wine industry with strong legislative commitment can only further enhance the Queensland wine industry to the forefront of tourism in this state. It gives me great pleasure to support this bill. Noosa is a great tourist destination with fine food, bars and scenery. What better way for Queenslanders to showcase our achievements such as an excellent wine industry in a beautiful and relatively unspoilt tourist destination for all Australians and overseas visitors.