



Speech by

**Hon. K. LINGARD**

**MEMBER FOR BEAUDESERT**

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Hansard 8 November 2001

### **PROSTITUTION AMENDMENT BILL**

**Hon. K. R. LINGARD** (Beaudesert—NPA) (11.05 p.m.): It has been amazing to listen to this debate. There is no doubt that many members of the government must be thinking that they will have to vote for something that they certainly do not agree with. Regardless of members' opinion about brothels and their attitude towards them, to be quite honest, this legislation goes contrary to our system of government in Australia.

That system has not just developed over the past few years; it has developed over a century. There is no doubt that a system of local government commenced with the settlement at Port Jackson, the settlement of Moreton Bay, the settlement of Bateman, and the settlement of Perth. In the 1850s, colonies in Gladstone and other parts of Queensland were settled and a second system of government, a state government, was developed. In the 1890s, a federal government system was set up. So we now have a three-tiered system of government.

Regardless of whether members agree with that or not, that is the system we have. Many of us who have worked in local government know that even if we disagree with the system, we cannot impose our personal values on that system, especially if that system does not come up with the ideas that we want it to come up with. If we agree with that three-tiered system then, as a state government, we must allow the local government to make its own decisions. If that local government makes a decision that the state government disagrees with, then somewhere along the line it has to accept that decision, because it has accepted the three-tiered system.

If, as the member for Beaudesert, I accept that the local government of Beaudesert has very different values from me as to how Beaudesert should be run, then I must accept—

**Mr Lawlor:** No doubt.

**Mr LINGARD:** There is no doubt about that. If it is that those members of the local council of Beaudesert believe that because Beaudesert is so very close to the Gold Coast area it does not need brothels, or that brothels are not applicable to Beaudesert, then I must allow the Beaudesert Shire Council to say no to brothels. Therefore, I say to the government that it must allow local government, such as the Beaudesert Shire Council, or the Boonah Shire Council, to say that brothels are not applicable to their areas.

Beaudesert is a very unusual area in that its demographics are not like other rural areas in Australia. There are not many other areas in Australia that are like Beaudesert, except maybe the south of Perth. Beaudesert does not need industrial growth because of the population growth that is occurring between Brisbane and the Gold Coast. The people who are moving into the area do not need industrial growth. The demographic make-up of Beaudesert does not need that sort of growth. People move into the area regardless of its industrial capacity. Therefore, it is a very different area. Certainly Beaudesert does not need the type of development that comes with brothels, and Boonah is a very similar area.

If the government is going to impose its values about brothels upon Beaudesert and Boonah, I say that that is completely wrong. Regardless of whether we like it or not, Australia has a three-tiered system of government. As an administrator, there have been many times in my life when I have been unhappy about the values that people below me have implemented. I would have liked to have imposed my own values upon them, but I have always found that that does not work. If the

government says to every small rural area like Beaudesert or Boonah, 'You will do what we want you to do,' it will fail.

We all have different opinions about brothels. I do not think that the government has the right to impose its values upon special areas. If we elect eight or nine members to the Beaudesert Shire Council and yet we are not prepared to accept what that council says about brothels, we are completely wrong. Those councils make their own decisions about values and what they think their communities should have. If the government tells them that they must allow brothels into their areas, it will be completely wrong.

In towns like Beaudesert, the industrial area is a part of the township. The industrial area is extremely close to the high school. The values of that particular society—

**Mr Fouras:** Who would go there?

**Mr LINGARD:** Exactly; I agree.

**Mr Fouras:** Why would someone set one up there?

**Mr LINGARD:** That is right.

**Mr Fouras:** What are you talking about? You do not have to have one.

**Mr LINGARD:** I say to the member that, of course, there will always be people who want to set up something like that. The member knows that. There will always be someone who wants to set up a business such as a brothel at Beaudesert or Boonah. Say someone wants to set up a brothel and the government says that it should be imposed upon an area like Beaudesert and Boonah. If that is what Mr Fouras is arguing for, I say that he is completely wrong and I disagree with him.

My ideas about brothels are not relevant in this particular discussion. This is a discussion about whether or not the government agrees with the three-tiered system of government and whether, as the second tier, it wants to impose upon the third tier its values. That is clearly what it is doing tonight. Therefore, I disagree with the legislation.

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