



Speech by

**Mr P. PURCELL**

**MEMBER FOR BULIMBA**

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Hansard 31 May 2001

### **WINE INDUSTRY AMENDMENT BILL**

**Mr PURCELL** (Bulimba—ALP) (5 p.m.): I support the Wine Industry Amendment Bill 2001. Recently, I took a trip to the Granite Belt.

**Mr Springborg:** That was your old country.

**Mr PURCELL:** It was my old stomping ground. I used to play football in the foothills of Stanthorpe. I used to show those blokes from Stanthorpe that us blokes from Texas, even though we could not produce any wine, could produce some good footballers.

**Mr Springborg:** They still talk about you up there, too.

**Mr PURCELL:** My word they would—and it might not be just because of the football. But we won't go into that.

Wine is becoming a very important part of the Queensland economy and our tourism industry. Some people think that the wine industry in Queensland developed only recently. It did not. Wine has been produced in this state for over 70 or 80 years. However, it is only now that we are starting to see large-scale commercial production. But you do not have to have large acreages to be successful.

I wish to inform honourable members about the wineries at Stanthorpe, and I urge honourable members to visit them. A drive through the Granite Belt takes visitors past Heritage Wines, the Stanthorpe Wine Centre, the Castle Glen Vineyard, the Old Caves Winery, which I have been to, the Cat's Paw Winery, the Severn Brae Estate, Inigo Wines, Kominos Wines, Mountview Wines, Felsberg Winery, Bramble Patch—I think I have also been there, although I am not really sure; it was wearing on in the afternoon—Stone Ridge Vineyard, Rumbalara Vineyards, Bungawarra Wines, Hidden Creek Vineyards, Windermere Wines, Granite Ridge, Winewood, Golden Grove Estate, Ballandean Estate—and I will come back to that—Robinsons Family Vineyard, Preston Peak Vineyard and Bald Mountain Vineyards.

I had the opportunity to call into the Ballandean Estate recently when I was on the Granite Belt. I followed my colleague to the olive festival at Stanthorpe, where I have some more mates with whom I used to play football and do other things with from time to time. Ballandean Estate Wines has been around for a long time. That family has done a marvellous job in developing the industry. It has been there since 1931. Angelo's grandfather started off the winery. They have some 90 acres. They produce all the good stuff—shiraz, cabernet sauvignon—I bought a half a dozen of those; they are very good wines—merlot, semillon, sauvignon blanc, chardonnay, and the late harvest Sylvaner. They are very good wines. They also make very good ports and, although they are not something I drink a lot of—I do not generally drink a lot of wine, but it is good with a nice meal—they also produce sauternes and half-bottle dessert wines.

Ballandean won a tourism award in 1996, 1997 and 1999. Interestingly, they also host Opera in the Vineyard—an open-air charity event attracting over 2,000 guests, held during the first week in May. So any members who did not go recently have missed out. Jazz in the Vineyard is a famous jazz entertainment afternoon. The annual event is promoted with lines like 'Take the girlfriend if you're not married and take the wife if you are,' because it is a very romantic afternoon.

Wine always makes things go better, particularly on the Granite Belt. There is also the Stanthorpe rodeo in Autumn. In April everyone goes to Tenterfield. The Tenterfield football team is not bad. You always have to win the toss at Tenterfield. You run uphill during the first half, because you never have enough puff to do that in the second half. So you do the hard work in the first half and run over them in the second half going downhill.

In May they have the Southern Downs Triathlon. As my colleague the member for Mansfield mentioned, a lot of people take a bus to the Granite Belt from Brisbane on the 'brass monkey' weekend tour. That is held in June, July and August. We are right in the middle of it now so people need to get into it. In August there are the Leyburn Sprints and the Shearer's Breakfast. I went to Leyburn recently. A lot of olive groves have been planted there. And that goes well with wine. They are attracting tourism to that area, which is great for the growth of the area and jobs.

When this bill is passed, it will give the places that I have spoken about around Stanthorpe the ability to sell wine while their vineyards are coming on. My home town of Cowra, where I used to work when I left school at a very tender age, is now under vine. I know the lead time it took for that to come on. Rothbury's bottle it. I think it won a fair few gold and silver medals with its Rothbury's Cowra Chardonnay, which is grown on the eastern slopes of the Binni Creek Road on the way to the Wyangala Dam. It is a very good wine.

I support this bill and the minister in her endeavours to make it easier for wineries to flourish and for the industry to continue to grow, and with it the tourism industry.

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