



Speech by

# STUART COPELAND

MEMBER FOR CUNNINGHAM

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Hansard 31 May 2001

## HOTELS

**Mr COPELAND** (Cunningham—NPA) (10.18 a.m.): Those of my colleagues who represent regional electorates will be aware of the massive support that regional hotels commit to sporting and community groups through sponsorship and donations. Unfortunately, it appears that around 82 of those regional hotels around Queensland will be hit by the state government's new pub tax, costing them in excess of \$60,000 per year. This will mean that regional communities will be the big loser, with a dramatic drop in sponsorship and donations supporting local development. One hotel in my electorate facing the new state government tax injects nearly \$70,000 into the community in sponsorship every year. This includes \$28,000 in support of local cricket, \$20,000 for the support and development of Rugby League and \$17,000 for local touch football. The list goes on, covering a wide range of activities that receive valuable support—from bull-riding competitions to car racing and, perhaps of greatest importance, sizeable donations distributed amongst local schools for fete days and fundraising.

When that hotel is slugged with the 10 per cent tax, the first expenses that will be forced to receive the chop will be these community donations and sponsorships. In effect, they will be stripped from the Toowoomba community to finance a \$300 million super stadium in the heart of Brisbane. Toowoomba, like many other regional cities, will not stand to receive one tangible benefit from the super stadium but, instead, will receive massive sponsorship cutbacks for local sporting development and local community groups.

The 1999 review of gaming in Queensland highlighted the need for a greater return of benefits to the community from the gaming industry. From what I have outlined here today, it is very evident that this will not be the case for regional communities such as Toowoomba. Regional sporting and community groups will be made to suffer at the hands of a state government that is hell-bent on taking money from regional Queensland to pump into the redevelopment of Brisbane city.

Time expired.

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