



Speech by

HOWARD HOBBS

MEMBER FOR WARREGO

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GAMING MACHINE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Mr HOBBS (Warrego—NPA) (9.44 p.m.): I am pleased tonight to be able to speak to the Gaming Machine and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. This bill has been in the making for quite some time. As the Leader of the Liberal Party and deputy leader of the coalition mentioned, we are supporting the legislation. However, I can see problems with it, particularly in relation to the commission that the government will be receiving. Even though this may be collected down the track by regulation, it is still a serious concern. This was brought to my attention by a hotelier in my electorate who has a small hotel in a town that is pretty quiet. He wanted to sell three machines. He is looking at a 50 per cent commission on the price that he would get for those machines. That was really quite devastating for him. That is an issue that we have to look at.

We all agree that there has to be a cap, and the zoning system seems to be a fair way. The zones do not look too bad as they stand. It does stop that flow of machines from the country to the city or whatever, and it does allow some flexibility out there. I was a bit amused when I looked at the explanatory notes to see them talk about the 'small administration fee' from the taxes received from hotels. I can imagine how that small administration fee will turn into a big administration fee. That is my concern.

I think overall the scheme is fine. We know what the minister is trying to do and we support him on that. We ask him to see if there is some way we can do it much more cheaply and not have the huge commissions that are proposed that will take the money away from those small hoteliers who are trying to make a living in a fair and honest way.