



Speech by

John-Paul Langbroek

MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

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BROADBEACH BOWLS CLUB

Mr LANGBROEK (Surfers Paradise—Lib) (10.24 a.m.): I rise today on a matter raised by my colleague the member for Currumbin with regard to rates for that outstanding Australian institution—the local bowls club. The club I would like to focus on is Broadbeach Bowls Club. The club is east of the Gold Coast Highway between Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach.

I have been approached by the chairman, Don Bayliss, who has expressed concern to me about the rising cost of rates and the damage that does to the future outlook of that club. This club pays the highest amount of rates of any bowls club on the Gold Coast. In 2000 its rates bill was \$17,385. In 2004 the rates bill is \$43,000. When the club—which cannot afford the massive rates on the property—approached this state government seeking special consideration, the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy outlined a possible solution which, in summary, said that by using the concessional rental system, and based on a valuation of \$2.9 million, the approximate rent would be \$72,500. That is \$29,000 more than they are paying on the current rates system.

For a local bowls club, this is unacceptable. The remedy sought by the club is clear. As Mr Bayliss states, for the continuation and viability of these valuable community based non-profit organisations, we seek that the government allow the various local government councils to administer these leases which would attract a much more affordable annual rental plus a different way of calculating the unimproved capital value for non-profit organisations which would result in more affordable council rates.

The point he makes is very valid. The bowls club is an Australian institution that has been sadly forgotten by this government. It is a place where people have come to congregate for years. The bowls club is a place of recreation where members of the community come to interact with their neighbours. It would also make sense for the government to create a lease for the land and have that lease administered by the local government. This would create a fairer situation for the bowls club and a more efficient method of administration. I certainly hope Mr Bayliss's concerns do not fall on deaf ears.