



Speech by

## John-Paul Langbroek

MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

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### TOURISM, FAIR TRADING AND WINE INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

**Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—Lib) (3.19 pm): I am pleased to rise to contribute briefly to the debate on the Tourism, Fair Trading and Wine Industry Development Legislation Amendment Bill 2005. Tourism is a very important aspect of my Surfers Paradise electorate, the Gold Coast and indeed Queensland. In fact, I will take this opportunity to comment on an article in the *Gold Coast Bulletin* today which discusses a new publication titled 'Australian traveller' that ranks the Gold Coast as the 10th ugliest city in Australia. I can tell the House—and those who know me will not be surprised to hear me say this—that I do not take kindly to this criticism of the Gold Coast. I do not know if the publishers of this magazine came to the Gold Coast or if they have ever been. However, if they did, they would know that this is not the way the Gold Coast really is.

I take this opportunity, with the Gold Coast minister present, to criticise this article and encourage the minister to do what she can to promote the Gold Coast, as I know she does, so that articles like this receive no traction because people will have seen the Gold Coast themselves and experienced all that it has to offer.

**Ms Keech:** I am as disappointed as you are with the article.

**Mr LANGBROEK:** I take that interjection.

I support the comments of the Liberal shadow spokesman for tourism in relation to this bill. The comments regarding the anxiety in the industry are most worrying. Everything the member for Currumbin said is true and thoroughly researched. It is always concerning when provisions are brought in that may affect the industry in an adverse way. I am very concerned that there are some destinations—smaller destinations—that may be overlooked in the new structure. I ask the minister to ensure that this is not the case.

I am also concerned that the government sees the need to overlook the tender process and possibly overlook what may have been a better offer had they opened it up to tender. There are a couple of concerns that the Liberal Party has with this bill which have been cited in depth by the Liberal shadow spokesperson. I support all of these and will be looking closely at further moves on this front, as I will any moves on tourism, to ensure that all members in the industry receive a fair deal. With these submissions to the House, I conclude my contribution.