



Speech by

## John-Paul Langbroek

**MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE**

Hansard Tuesday, 23 August 2005

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### **RACING VENUES DEVELOPMENT AMENDMENT BILL**

**Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—Lib) (4.14 pm): I am very pleased to rise to speak on the Racing Venues Development Amendment Bill and, in doing so, indicate the Liberal Party's support for this bill. The racing industry is one of the biggest industries in Queensland and provides for the livelihoods of thousands of Queenslanders and their families. I have been and will continue to be an ardent supporter of the racing fraternity and the product it provides.

This bill is one that amends the Racing Venues Development Act 1982 to give the Governor in Council greater discretion to approve the use of land by trustees appointed under the act, and this includes discretion to make decisions with regard to purposes that are not directly related to the racing industry. It does this by omitting from section 4(1B) of the Racing Venues Development Act the requirement that the discretion only extends to racing related decisions and places in the act the more broad term 'for any other purpose' as the test that must be satisfied under this discretionary power. As I said at the outset, there is no problem with this on the face of it. Trustees of any club—and racing clubs are no exception—have certain obligations, and this piece of legislation does not lessen these obligations in any way. While there is always a need to keep an eye on these types of things to ensure the extended power is not abused by trustees, there are plenty of safeguards in the legislation and there is no need to object to any of the provisions.

I also notice that one of the groups consulted was the trustees of the Parklands Gold Coast Trust. I also take this opportunity to congratulate all of the people who have contributed and continue to contribute to making Gold Coast greyhound and harness racing what it is. I have had people come to me praising the facilities there. I have gone along to the odd night meeting when I have had the chance, and anyone would be hard-pressed to find a provincial track anywhere in Australia with comparable facilities, infrastructure and ease of access. My family and I are also, as are other Gold Coast members—the member for Southport and the member for Broadwater—looking forward to the Gold Coast Show. It is like a mini Ekka but without the dramas of getting there and the associated crowds. Also, it does not quite have the selection of show bags, which is good for indecisive children, and I have three of those. I commend this bill to the House.