



Speech by

Peter Wellington

MEMBER FOR NICKLIN

Hansard Tuesday, 23 May 2006

LIQUOR AMENDMENT BILL

Mr WELLINGTON (Nicklin—Ind) (7.37 pm): I rise to participate in the Liquor Amendment Bill 2006. I commence my contribution by quoting extracts of the minister's second reading speech. In her conclusion she said—

In summary, the amendments in this bill form part of a wider state government initiative, the Statewide Safety Action Plan, aimed at providing a safer environment for patrons and the public in and around licensed premises.

Quite frankly, I think that is common sense and that is what we should all be supporting tonight. This is about ensuring that our community is safe not just during daylight hours but also that it is as safe as humanly possible during the night-time hours. When private businesspeople such as nightclub owners simply want to concentrate on making profits and not contributing to our community, that is the time when the state government has to act by changing the law because some of the business operators in our community are not prepared to play their part.

I believe this is a great amendment. I believe it is a common-sense amendment. Many examples are reported in the media, reported in parliament and referred to us by our own friends and associates which show that alcohol, the early hours of the morning and nightclubs simply do not mix. I believe that the government has had to respond because some irresponsible nightclub owners are not prepared to act as responsible members of our community. All they have wanted to do is look at the profit margins and the bottom dollar. I do not have a problem with someone making a profit or businesspeople making money and ensuring that their businesses are viable and successful. However, I do believe that businesspeople—just like everyone else in our community—have a responsibility to give something back to our community. We are debating this bill and the minister has had to bring in this amendment to the legislation because some nightclub owners have not been prepared to demonstrate the level of responsibility that we require in our community.

Without further ado, I congratulate the minister on her amendments. I think it is high time. I say to the irresponsible nightclub owners that this legislation has had to come about simply because they have not been prepared to be leaders in their industry. I commend the bill to the House and look forward to the consideration in detail stage.