



Speech by

Peta-Kaye Croft

MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

Hansard Tuesday, 6 February 2007

SUMMARY OFFENCES AND OTHER ACTS AMENDMENT BILL

Ms CROFT (Broadwater—ALP) (8.28 pm): I, too, rise this evening to talk specifically in relation to amendments within this bill that will prohibit the sale of aerosol cans to minors. It is clear from the contributions that I have been listening to this evening that these amendments are well supported by both sides of the House. Indeed, graffiti is a highly offensive form of vandalism that costs local governments and agencies, in particular Queensland Rail, and private industry millions of dollars each year. The Gold Coast City Council, in common with many councils, has established a successful anti-graffiti program that employs up to six people full time who work throughout the Gold Coast. I can only echo my colleague's comments in saying that I, too, find graffiti, in particular graffiti that has been done by spray-paint, really quite offensive.

A couple of weeks ago Minister Paul Lucas was down in my electorate to open a fantastic upgraded road that borders a brand new residential development. The developer put up a big fence alongside the road. Within two days of that fence being painted there was graffiti all over it. The development has done a lot to enhance our local area. It was quite disappointing to see that someone had gone to great lengths to access that property and deface the paintwork.

My contribution tonight will be short. I rise to speak in support of amendments in this legislation that give police the powers to ensure that aerosol paint cans are not sold to minors. Obviously the amendments give police the powers to search and apprehend people who have spray-paint cans that the police determine to be an implement used for vandalism and graffiti. My community believes that the police should have these extra powers. Most people in our communities would expect that the police would have these powers to do their jobs. I commend the bill to the House.