



Speech by

Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

Hansard Thursday, 8 October 2009

GAMBLING AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Mr RYAN (Morayfield—ALP) (12.03 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate and support the Gambling and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. This amending bill will introduce a number of important and fundamental reforms in the areas of gambling, liquor licensing and racing. These reforms will be warmly welcomed by the people of the Morayfield state electorate because these reforms respond to community concerns about appropriate safeguards in the areas of gambling and liquor licensing. This government is about setting standards, providing safeguards and safety nets, and allowing communities to realise their full potential. This government is about getting the balance right between harm minimisation and having faith in the capacity of members of our community to make responsible decisions about their own circumstances. The amendments contained in this bill achieve that end.

This bill is consistent with the Queensland Labor government's vision for a fair, safe and caring Queensland. The Toward Q2 strategy clearly refers to this vision. The strategy provides that caring for our communities means helping out when it is needed. This bill responds to that vision. In relation to the amendments to the Liquor Act, which will be affected by this bill, the people of the Morayfield state electorate will be pleased to see that this Labor state government is sending a strong message to the operators of licensed premises that the safety of patrons in the local community is an important accompaniment to a liquor licence.

I made particular effort to discuss the proposed amendments to the Liquor Act with members of my community. I would like to specifically thank the members of my local Neighbourhood Watches for their feedback. They, along with all members of my community, will be pleased to see that this amending bill will improve safety in our local communities by introducing reforms in relation to the use of regular and irregular glass, a moratorium on extended trading hours after midnight in suburban areas—like the areas contained in the Morayfield state electorate—and an explicit statement that the objective of harm minimisation must be taken into account when making decisions to grant liquor licence applications.

I would like to conclude my remarks by briefly speaking about the gaming act amendments contained in this bill. Gaming machines were first introduced in Queensland to improve the viability of an ailing club industry. The assistance gaming machines provide to clubs ultimately benefits the community through improved club facilities and supporting charitable causes. I would particularly like to note the contribution made to my community by the Caboolture Sports Club. The Caboolture Sports Club is a not-for-profit organisation that returns support to local sports, schools, local athletes, charities and other community organisations. Last year they gave over \$700,000 to sporting groups and people in my local community.

I would like to commend the community groups that provide support to people with alcohol and gambling problems in my electorate. I would like to particularly thank them for the assistance that they provide to those people. I am pleased to see that this bill will introduce a number of safeguards in relation to community safety for people with gambling issues. I am particularly pleased to see that one of those safeguards, the cap on gaming machines in our local community, will send an important message to

people in our community in relation to gaming. It will be particularly welcome by my community. I commend the bill to the House. I commend the minister and the department for their contribution.