



Speech by

Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

Hansard Tuesday, 23 November 2010

LIQUOR AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Mr RYAN (Morayfield—ALP) (8.06 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Liquor and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. People in the Morayfield state electorate are fortunate to have a strong, active and community minded liquor industry action group in our area. The Caboolture LIAG is not only well respected in our community; its members regularly win awards for responsible and safe liquor service practices. I note that both the Caboolture RSL and the Caboolture Sports Club have recently won awards for their good work. I also congratulate the Caboolture Sports Club on the completion of its renovation works, and I look forward to joining with the Minister for Tourism and Fair Trading at the official opening of its renovated building next week.

One of the things about the Caboolture LIAG that really impressed me this year was its sponsorship of a responsible-service-of-alcohol course at the Morayfield State High School. The students who completed this course did not just end up with a qualification that could help them get a job in the hospitality industry; these students also learned about responsible service of alcohol and, accordingly, the responsible consumption of alcohol, and that is an important point. Creating safe and supportive communities and creating safe venues for people to consume alcohol need to be a priority and need to involve individuals taking responsibility for their own actions. I commend the Caboolture LIAG for doing its bit by being active, promoting safe practices and supporting the learning of local young people.

But the tragedies caused by the alcohol related violence that we have recently witnessed mean that more must be done to secure the safety of people at licensed venues in our communities. The responsible-service-of-alcohol principle is an expectation and requirement imposed on licensed venues and the liquor industry. On the other hand, the responsible consumption of alcohol is about individual attitudes and individual responsibility.

This parliament, through the legislation it passes, can send clear messages to our community about the type of society we want to live in. The clear message of this bill is about creating safe communities and encouraging the responsible consumption of alcohol. It is impossible to expect the liquor industry and licensed venues to do all the heavy lifting of reform. Reform must involve the government, the community, the liquor industry, the police and, most importantly, individuals. The work of the Law, Justice and Safety Committee must be acknowledged as a key basis for the reforms before the House today.

As members are aware, on 18 March 2010 the Law, Justice and Safety Committee tabled its final report on its inquiry into alcohol related violence. After the release of the Law, Justice and Safety Committee's final report, the government undertook extensive consultation with industry and the broader community to develop a policy response to the report's recommendations. Multiple meetings were held with both industry and community stakeholders to obtain feedback on the report's final recommendations. The participants at those meetings were invited to make written submissions to the government and were also invited to complete a stakeholder survey. In addition, an online survey received approximately 16,000 responses from community members, with a particularly high response from young people. To further engage young people, on 23 June 2010 a youth forum was held to seek their opinions and perspectives regarding the report's recommendations.

The Liquor and Other Legislation Amendment Bill amends legislation to enable a number of recommendations made in the committee's report to be implemented. This bill supports the following strategies: the establishment of drink-safe precincts in nominated pilot areas; the introduction of new court based banning powers for people convicted of violent alcohol related offences in drink-safe precincts; limitations on the ordinary trading hours for new bottle shops and other new takeaway liquor outlets; a greater emphasis on community consultation and aspects of community amenity as part of the liquor licensing process; and, importantly for the people of the Morayfield state electorate, an extension of the extended trading hours application moratorium until the end of 2013.

This bill will deliver good reforms for our community. This bill builds on partnerships with industry and the community. It sends strong messages about the responsible consumption of alcohol and ensuring that licensed venues are safe and supportive environments. It also allows the community to have a greater say in where licensed venues are located and the hours for which they are open. I commend the committee, the minister, his staff and the department for their respective contributions to this bill. Accordingly, I commend the bill to the House and I ask all members to support it.