




Speech by

Fiona Simpson

MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE

Hansard Tuesday, 6 September 2011

MAJOR SPORTS FACILITIES AMENDMENT BILL

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (3.18 pm): Queensland has some magnificent sporting teams and they do this state proud. We are proud of what they have achieved and Suncorp Stadium provides an important sporting infrastructure for the whole state and is well loved by many avid sports fans. We, however, must also remember that this is a state stadium and it is in a local community's backyard and that community also has a right to have its voice and its concerns noted. Many love the stadium but have concerns about how the negative impacts are managed in the surrounds of the stadium, particularly after games. These issues have certainly been noted in the committee's report that has been tabled and they are certainly worthy of being brought to the attention of this House again.

I am a member of that committee. In the report we specifically noted—

... that the Minister has provided limited material that addresses the identified potential impacts as outlined in 17 and 18 of this report. The committee asks that the Minister address these issues in the Parliament.

On reading the 2½-page response tabled by the minister, it appears that the only new thing the minister is supplying to address the committee's concerns about those impacts upon the community is—

Suncorp Stadium is also putting into place a new initiative on its website allowing local residents and others to sign up to receive up-to-date information about events and other useful information.

I think this parliament and the people in the community surrounding Suncorp Stadium deserve a lot better than a website link. Their concerns are valid and they should have been respected and addressed by the minister. Perhaps the minister will still bring to the table later on in the debate something more than what his tabled letter contains. It is not good enough for a community that deserves to have its voice heard in the midst of this new legislation that is extending the conditions relating to Suncorp Stadium. Clearly the concerns that they have raised in the very abbreviated time in which this bill has come back to the parliament have not been addressed by the government.

If the existing measures that are in place that are supposed to mitigate the impacts of large crowds at Suncorp Stadium were sufficient then we would not have seen these issues raised in the committee's report. For example, the likely or potential adverse impacts are many and varied and extend to increases in noise pollution and increases in traffic congestion. The report goes on about increases in the number of intoxicated patrons in the streets adjacent to the stadium following events and related potential increases in alcohol fuelled violence in the licensed venues and streets that are located proximate to the stadium.

The report also outlines concerns about transport. I think it would be really unfortunate if Labor MPs were to verbal the community by saying that they do not have legitimate issues and they should like or lump the minister's response. I think they deserve to have their concerns addressed with more than the status quo about the current mitigations.

In that very abbreviated, rushed time frame—the unsatisfactory time frame in which this bill has been brought back before the House because of a lack of proper planning by this government—the community has clearly said that it wants to see better. It deserves to have better. Unfortunately, as has

been noted by the committee, this bill was pushed through its committee stage in an abbreviated time frame. In its report the committee has noted that this is an unsatisfactory time frame which has in many ways cut short the ability to really examine some of those policy issues and, I believe, to give true voice to having more effective mitigation measures around this community.

It is up to the minister to give us a better explanation than we have seen in this tabled paper. It is time that we saw these policy issues addressed. The community deserves better. We want to see a stadium that is able to proudly host these events without any adverse impacts on the community due to the fact that they have been listened to. That is what we are waiting for. That is what we are demanding. I will certainly be listening to see if the minister brings something better to the table than a website link that simply gives people information.