




Speech by

Michael Crandon

MEMBER FOR COOMERA

Hansard Tuesday, 14 February 2012

CHARITABLE AND NON-PROFIT GAMING (TWO-UP) AMENDMENT BILL AND CRIMINAL CODE (ANZAC DAY BETTING) AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (9.18 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on two bills—the Charitable and Non-Profit Gaming (Two-up) Amendment Bill 2011 and the Criminal Code (Anzac Day Betting) Amendment Bill 2011. Of course, the Criminal Code (Anzac Day Betting) Amendment Bill was the first bill to be submitted for consideration. It was submitted by the LNP, by the shadow Attorney-General. A few months later that was followed up by the Attorney-General realising that after 20 years he should probably do something about legalising the game of two-up. As a result of that, the Finance and Administration Committee, of which I am a proud member, was given the role of looking at the two bills and giving consideration to them and performing the job of reviewing the bills, taking public statements and making recommendations to the House.

I congratulate our committee support staff in particular for ensuring that we could complete our committee work and table the report on 1 December. That was something that was a conscious decision by the committee. If one refers back to the minutes of the committee, they will see that we did make a conscious decision to speed up the process and ensure that the bills could potentially be debated before Anzac Day this year. We were endeavouring, on the off-chance that parliament came back this year—and here we are—to legalise two-up for Anzac Day this coming year. There was some interesting banter that took place during our deliberations as to the strategy when playing the game of two-up. There was a little bit of toing and froing as to what you should and should not do.

Mr Lawlor interjected.

Mr CRANDON: I take the interjection. We had to explain the finer points of the game to one or two people to give them a better understanding of what the game of two-up was all about. Importantly, I note that the amendments as recommended by the committee were accepted by the minister and those amendments were two very important ones—that is, to clarify that two-up is a game under the Charitable and Non-Profit Gaming Act 1999 by using it as an example in the act and to exclude Remembrance Day from the days on which two-up is allowed to be conducted by RSL and services clubs and persons approved by the RSL subbranch as it is considered to be a sombre day of remembrance. That was a message that the committee received very loud and clear from organisations, the RSL in particular, in their submissions to the committee.

The committee did a fine job and the chair of the committee ensured that we were all given ample opportunity to examine the evidence given to us by those people who nominated themselves as interested parties. As a result, as I said earlier, on 1 December we were able to table our report and here we are today legalising the game of two-up. I take the point that the member for Gladstone made in that there will probably be a few diggers out there who will be a little bit unhappy that it is not illegal anymore for them to have a game of two-up because there was a little bit more excitement in the game because of that. I commend the bill to the House and look forward to enjoying a game of two-up at the RSL at Helensvale in a few weeks time.