




Speech By
Hon. David Crisafulli

MEMBER FOR MUNDINGBURRA

LIQUOR AND GAMING (RED TAPE REDUCTION) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Mundingburra—LNP) (Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience) (6.06 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Liquor and Gaming (Red Tape Reduction) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013. What a shining example of what we as a state and as a government want to achieve. It is a victory for common sense over bureaucratic hurdle jumping, hoop jumping and so on. These are the sorts of things governments can do to make life better for families. Governments can often get side-tracked into thinking that the only way to make positive change is by doing things financially. That is not the case. Often, doing less can be a win for people—less regulation, tying them up less, giving them an opportunity to exercise common sense. If ever you needed proof of why you need less regulation it is the fact that during 2012 not one of the nearly 7,000 community liquor permit applications was refused.

Let us be clear about who is regulated under the 1992 Liquor Act. It is the people who are trying to organise the bar at the local school fete and those organising a trivia night, where you might want to buy a glass of wine or have a shandy. I can also tell you whom I think it is going to help: anyone who ever wants to stage a community event. I have faith in the people who are organising school events in the electorate of Mundingburra—people such as Grammar Juniors P&C President John Ioannou, the Cathedral School's Ange D'Arcy, Cranbrook State School's Bridget Bambrick, Heatley Secondary College's Mick Cutler and all the other community minded, hardworking people who do their bit for schools such as Mundingburra State School, Aitkenvale State School, Annandale State School, Annandale Christian College, Currajong State School, Heatley State School, Holy Spirit Catholic School—they are having their fete this Friday night; if you think the steaks are good in Logan, you should see what we do on the barbecue at the Holy Spirit fete—Ignatius Park College, Townsville Community Learning Centre, Riverside Adventist Christian School, Vincent State School, William Ross State High and Southern Cross Catholic College.

I want those people and the many more good citizens throughout Queensland to spend less time filling in forms. That is what this government is about. The P&Cs of these schools previously had to apply for a \$57 community liquor permit if they wanted to offer supporters and parents a drink at a community fundraiser. It is not just about the money; it is about the message it sends, that we want to regulate everything you do, everything you say or any fun you have.

This bill changes that in that it does not just cut the red tape; it saves them money, and that is another imperative of our government. It is not just schools but the Lions Club of Townsville Central or Centrals ASA Junior Rugby League—which are both in my electorate, the latter of which suffered severely through the tornado which tore through the area prior to the election—that are hosting their next fundraiser or any other community group that forms the foundation of my electorate. They will not need to go through the extra paperwork and the cost of applying for a community liquor permit. It is a win not just for the people of Mundingburra but for people around the state who are yearning for a sensible, smart and common-sense solution to the mess, to the regulations, to the bureaucratic nightmare that they have endured for far too long.

I want to speak briefly on the amendment to country shows that my good friend the Attorney has put forward. If ever one needs an example of listening and taking a common-sense approach, here it is. I had the great pleasure of going to the Blackbutt Show the other day with the member for Nanango, and there I saw everything that was right about our great country communities. I do not believe that a permit for alcohol would stop that wonderful community from enjoying itself. I do not believe for one moment that that is not the sort of place where people could come together and regulate themselves. Of course they can. That is what country communities do. This gives them the ability to just get on with life, and that is what this place needs to be more about—that is, more of allowing the individual the right to get on with life and less about making laws to try to penalise everyone to pick up the minority. Finally we are cutting the cords that bind all Queenslanders. Are we doing it fast enough? The answer is that we are moving as fast as we can, but it is changes in bills like this that reflect a common-sense approach to government, and I support it wholeheartedly.