




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

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

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (8.38 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Liquor and Gaming (Red Tape Reduction) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill.

A government member: Do you support your shows being exempt?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I do support my shows. What we just heard from the opposition member is typical of the nanny state the Labor Party expect us to enjoy. They want prescription. They want more guidance. Now the Labor Party is saying to us, 'No, no, no. We cannot have any common sense.' I congratulate the Attorney-General for his hard work and efforts in reducing red tape in Queensland.

I am very pleased to be the Assistant Minister for Regulatory Reform and also grateful that the Attorney-General will remove more than 16 unnecessary regulatory obligations and requirements with this bill, directly taking the burden of unnecessary paperwork away from businesses like clubs, hotels, restaurants and cafes and our always very busy community groups and volunteers. This bill will also help nursing homes because it exempts hospitals and nursing homes that sell a limited amount of liquor—say, two glasses of wine per day per person—for people who at this stage of their lives should be able to enjoy a glass of wine before they go to bed. The Labor Party prescribed that nursing homes not only had to apply for a commercial licence for two standard drinks—

Mr Rickuss: It was a money grab.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: It was an absolute money grab—a \$500 annual fee for them to provide patients and our elderly—the most important people in our community—

Mr Costigan: Joy killers!

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Yes, joy killers; that is absolutely right. I very much support the removal of unnecessary regulations because it is the community and the Queensland economy that ultimately benefit from lower regulatory costs. This improves the ability of businesses to start up, to survive, to compete and to grow. Businesses then have more time to focus on innovation and improving the competitiveness and resilience of their business to make their offerings more attractive to tourists and customers. This can only be a positive for our local economies.

I want to focus on one of the key changes in this bill—that is, the exemption of community groups from the requirement to apply for a community liquor permit for low-risk events like trivia nights, school concerts, fetes, sausage sizzles or other similar fundraising events. The permits were previously required by non-profit organisations such as P&Cs which generally do not hold a liquor licence but who wished to sell a small amount of liquor on a temporary or one-off occasion. The application fee, which has been mentioned many times today in this House, may seem trivial to those listening—\$57. However it is not trivial because imagine how many glasses of wine or show bags you have to sell to make that \$57, and it is the paperwork that volunteers have to put their time and effort

into filling out. If you are new to a committee you would not understand the regulations around the paperwork because it is not just one piece of paper. It is just absolutely ludicrous.

Mr Johnson: And if you don't get it right, you find yourself liable.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take that interjection: if you do not get it right, then all of a sudden you become liable. Thank you, member for Gregory. The removal of this obligation is a win for common sense and a win for our busy community volunteers, who really do not need another form to fill out. It gives them more time to focus on fundraising events and enhances their ability to continue to provide their services and increases their fundraising opportunities. It is certainly not anticipated that these amendments will lead to an increase in the consumption of alcohol at community events. That is because we trust the parents and community members who organise and run these types of events. They are sensible, community-minded people who know right from wrong. Indeed, it is intended that non-profit organisations will no longer need to fill out the paperwork and fork out the \$57. The reason we know we can trust these good people is that only nine applications of the 6,774 permits issued in 2012 were rejected.

Mr Rickuss: How many?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Only nine applications were rejected out of the 6,774 permits that were issued. That is incredible. It is anticipated that these changes will reduce the required applications by 60 per cent or over 4,000 per year.

Although the exemption does not limit the type of event that is eligible, criteria will be in place to minimise any potential harm to the community. Eligible events are genuine one-off events conducted between 7 am and 12 midnight and for no longer than eight hours on a single day. The sale of liquor must also be secondary to the event and all proceeds must be used to the benefit of the community. On this point I can talk about amazing events in my electorate like the Burrum Heads race day or the Yarraman Bowling Club, which runs the Rosalie Fours, or the Kumbia Brain Drain, which is a great trivia night run by the Kumbia State School.

Mr Rickuss: The Moore art show.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: The Moore art show; I take that interjection from the member for Lockyer. The Moore art show is a fabulous event. There is also the Crows Nest Bowls Club.

A government member interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: If it is not for profit, that would be correct. The South Burnett Young Leaders is a fantastic group of young leaders within the South Burnett that is now trying to set up these community events.

Mr Rickuss: Are they over 18?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: They are over 18. The exemption means that eligible functions are not subject to the requirements of paying this fee, of applying for the community liquor permit and—and this is a really good point, and I congratulate the Attorney-General for adding this—they do not need to provide a defined area for the consumption of alcohol. This is common sense. Say we are talking about a fete at the Kingaroy netball club. Previously it would have to apply and go through all of the paperwork, which it would not bother to do so it would not bother having alcohol at events in the past. These organisations do not have to map out the area of the community event, and I do congratulate the Attorney-General because there is also no need to provide security. That is a massive cost to these organisations. I note that there is no restriction on the type of liquor able to be sold, and that is wonderful. Whilst the South Burnett provides fantastic wines, this is a great advantage in that these organisations can also sell beer or other liquor such as Bundaberg Rum.

Large scale events are not directly excluded from the operation of the exemption. However, it is considered that larger events such as music festivals are generally commercial operations, so we are looking for events that are run by these wonderful community members. I note that earlier in the House a member mentioned Volunteers Week last week. These people are the backbone of our society, so this government is pleased to do anything we can to get out of their way to enable our communities to enjoy these types of events. I am proud to be part of a government that is getting out of the way of these organisations running wonderful events. We do not want to be a nanny state.

These reforms are not about cutting regulation for the sake of cutting regulation. They are considered measures and risk appropriate. Many of the requirements being removed in this bill were set over a decade ago when gaming was first introduced. With the benefit of regulatory experience and technological advancements, we are now able to make a considered assessment of the risks and adjust our framework. I again note that this bill provides clarity, even though I have not had the opportunity to talk about advantages to the small rural shows like Blackbutt and all of the wonderful shows that I am a part of. I again congratulate the Attorney-General for introducing this bill before the House that will reduce regulation. I commend the bill to the House.