




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

Record of Proceedings, 20 November 2013

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

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (4.52 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Liquor (Red Tape Reduction) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013. I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the tireless efforts of the Attorney-General and applaud him for his ongoing commitment in the reduction of red tape for all Queenslanders.

The proposed reforms contained in this bill are aimed at assisting the liquor and gaming industries—industries which play a crucial role in employing people in our economy and attracting tourism to our state. This bill, combined with the range of other reforms already introduced by the Newman government, bring to more than 40 the total of individual red-tape-reduction reforms implemented just in the liquor and gaming industries over the last 18 months. This is on top of the 400 other reforms that have been implemented by this government.

Like many of the reforms already undertaken by our can-do government, the reforms outlined in this bill are common-sense reforms—reforms aimed at removing unnecessary and burdensome red tape for licensees and businesses. For example, tour operators currently have to jump through a range of bureaucratic hoops, applying for special licences for every individual vessel or vehicle and ensuring they have ‘approved managers’ on board just to serve one or two drinks. These reforms will instead allow tour operators to serve small amounts of alcohol to their guests without requiring a licence.

There will still be sufficient safeguards and limits in place to protect our communities, but it will allow for a welcome gesture of hospitality to the tourists and holiday visitors, particularly, for example, if they were to take a tour bus to the wonderful Nanango electorate. We have wonderful vineyards and wineries around the South Burnett, so this would be a wonderful opportunity to open up this tourism destination to the rest of Queensland.

The bill also seeks to assist Queensland’s restaurants, cafes and small community clubs. These types of licensed venues will no longer require an approved manager to be on site if they do not operate past midnight. What common sense. I am sure you will agree with me, Madam Deputy Speaker Barton. What common sense from this can-do LNP government.

Many of these businesses, whether they are in the restaurant or cafe business, are small businesses. They are family run and owned businesses most of the time or they might be local clubs like the Wandoan Bowls Club—which is not in my electorate but it is in the member for Callide’s electorate. My mother runs around tirelessly for this local club. It is a not-for-profit club.

Mr Mander: Are they playing in the Prime Minister’s tournament?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: They probably are. It is a low-risk venue where the time and costs incurred in complying with red tape such as the previous liquor licensing is just ridiculous and onerous. For these poor hardworking community members, like my mum and dad, who actually do what they do for the rest of the community, it is just so exciting, and I cannot wait to give my mother a

call and the rest of the ladies at the Wandoan Bowls Club and let them know that this legislation is before the House.

Another good example of common-sense reforms included in this bill is removing the requirement for licensees to keep a responsible service of alcohol training register—another piece of paperwork. Common sense now prevails; we do not need it.

Mr Johnson: Do you want me to say it for you?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: No, thank you, Mr Johnson. So they will no longer need to keep this piece of paper detailing the training course certificates held by all staff involved in the service and supply of liquor at the premises. Whether they are a local family business or hardworking community people, they do not need to be treated like idiots. That is why our government has stepped in and the Attorney-General has said, 'Enough is enough. Let's get rid of this ridiculous red tape.' I am so excited to be standing here today to support this bill for common sense.

The current requirements under the current Liquor Act for licensees to maintain this training register are simply unnecessary and have been determined so. They duplicate either information already held by the licensees or details already recorded on the responsible service of alcohol certificate. So this is a perfect example of, I imagine, another Labor idea to create another piece of paper just for the sake of another piece of paper. It is just onerous and burdensome. Whoever invented it did not think about the end result for the poor mum-and-dad business or the poor community member.

Mr Bleijie: The Labor way.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take that interjection from the Attorney-General; it is the Labor way. Thankfully our government has considered all of this onerous red tape and we are getting rid of all these ridiculous pieces of paper.

The time and cost savings to these businesses that I have outlined will result in a boost to the Queensland tourism economy. This ultimately means a stronger and more productive state economy. The best thing we can do as a government for the state of Queensland is to get out of the way of businesses. We need to take a common-sense approach to regulation and simply let businesses do what they do best—and that is just get on with business. Indeed, the signs are that the actions of our can-do Newman government are putting this state back on the right course. People are spending more and businesses are generally more optimistic about the outlook.

This can be seen in the latest Westpac Group-CCIQ Pulse Survey of business conditions, which had confidence in Queensland at its highest level in 19 months. Importantly, 58 per cent of businesses think economic conditions in Queensland will continue to improve over the next 12 months. What a wonderful boost to the state of Queensland. Almost 40 per cent of businesses reported that they expect general business conditions to improve over the December quarter. By no means do we as a government take all of the credit for this return to confidence. I do, however, view this as a sign that we are on the right track and that our policies aimed at lowering the cost of living and growing our four-pillar economy are working.

A lot of work still remains to be done and I am sure the Attorney-General will continue to bring these great red-tape reform bills before the House. That is why this government remains so committed to doing things like reducing red tape and regulation and increasing the business opportunities throughout the state of Queensland. I support this bill.