



Speech By  
**Hon. Jarrod Bleijie**


**MEMBER FOR KAWANA**

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Record of Proceedings, 15 October 2013

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

### **Introduction**

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (12.00 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Casino Control Act 1982, the Criminal Law (Rehabilitation of Offenders) Act 1986, the Gaming Machine Act 1991, the Liquor Act 1992, the Roman Catholic Church (Incorporation of Church Entities) Act 1994, the Roman Catholic Church Lands Act 1985, the Security Providers Act 1993 and the Wagering Act 1998 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Liquor (Red Tape Reduction) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013 [[3730](#)].

*Tabled paper:* Liquor (Red Tape Reduction) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013, explanatory notes [[3731](#)].

I am particularly pleased to introduce the Liquor (Red Tape Reduction) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013 into the parliament today. Following the 2012 state election the Newman government has consulted extensively with industry and the community, appointing a red-tape reduction expert panel to review liquor licensing and gaming regulation in this state. This was established following the 2012 DestinationQ conference in Cairns as part of our commitment to revitalise the tourism industry in Queensland. The expert panel has provided a range of recommendations to reduce regulatory burden to support the tourism and hospitality industries. This government is committed to implementing practical and sensible red-tape reduction initiatives in the liquor and gaming industries, and this bill meets that commitment.

This bill's primary purpose is to reduce red tape to ensure that the state's liquor and gaming industries can operate more freely and be competitive both nationally and internationally. The government has already taken steps to reduce red tape for the regulation of liquor and gaming, with many significant amendments already having been implemented earlier this year. The bill introduced today focuses on removing impediments to low-risk areas of licensed premises and gambling operations and addressing those areas that have been overregulated for years beyond the necessity warranted.

This bill will decrease the level of regulatory burden imposed on certain low-risk premises, such as small community clubs, by exempting these venues from the requirement to have an approved manager present or reasonably available when they are not trading beyond midnight. To ensure good order is maintained and the risk of alcohol related harm is minimised at these venues, an approved manager will continue to be required or available from 10 pm until close if the premises does trade beyond midnight. Licensed vessels, due to their low-risk and controlled nature, will also be exempted from the approved manager requirements, regardless of operating hours.

The bill also removes the administrative requirement for liquor licensees to keep a responsible service of alcohol training register. Training certificates will still be required to be kept on site and be

available for inspection. However, the administrative requirement to maintain a register, which duplicates information available on the certificate, will be removed. Additionally, approved managers and individual licensees will further benefit from this bill as it removes the requirement for these persons to hold a current RSA certificate if they hold a current RMLV certificate, therefore reducing unnecessary duplication and regulatory burden. The bill also fosters the tourist industry by allowing tourist operators to supply limited amounts of liquor to their clients as part of a tour, without a licence or permit. Liquor licensees will also be allowed to pay their annual fees by instalment where they experience not just personal but also financial hardship.

Other measures in this bill relating to adult entertainment permits will extend the term of a permit from one to three years and allow for the approval of adult entertainment controllers to be transferable to multiple venues, providing licensees with greater certainty and considerable monetary and time savings, while providing adult entertainment controllers greater flexibility to work across multiple venues. However, the strict probity requirements on these applications and controllers will be maintained.

Given technological advancements within and the maturity of Queensland's gaming industry, it is no longer considered necessary for government to track individual gaming machines. As such, the bill will allow licensees, licensed monitoring operators, approved financiers and gaming trainers to destroy their gaming machines without the commissioner's prior written approval, reducing unnecessary red tape. In line with creating more flexible legislation, the bill also removes a number of gaming machine licence application requirements from the Gaming Machine Act and provides for these within an approved form, reducing duplication of requirements in the legislation and allowing for a more flexible regulatory model. Overall, the bill reduces a broad range of legislative requirements and represents another significant step in the ongoing process to reduce the regulatory burden across the liquor and gaming industries.

The bill also contains a number of other minor miscellaneous amendments to liquor, gaming and fair trading legislation to ensure clarity and consistency. These include amendments to the Wagering Act to give direct legislative authority under that act for the minister to extend the term of a sports wagering licence.

Amendments to the Roman Catholic Church (Incorporation of Church Entities) Act provide for legislative recognition of existing legal entities and arrangements established under canon law, with the aim of enabling the church to operate more simply by reducing red tape. The amendments are mainly technical in nature and pertain to three separate facets of church property: civil law recognition of the creation of canon law trusts; extending consent provisions to include certain juridical persons, the canon law equivalent of legal persons; and pooling of investments. The bill also makes a minor amendment to the Roman Catholic Church Lands Act in order to correct the inadvertent omission of a block of land upon which St Michael's Church at Pine Ridge is located and has been vested to the trustees of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Brisbane.

The bill also makes amendments to confirm the intent of the Security Providers Act to clarify that unrecorded convictions do not result in automatic disqualification from holding a licence but must be considered by the chief executive in determining whether a person is an appropriate person to hold a licence. This bill demonstrates the government's ongoing commitment to a common-sense approach to regulation in Queensland to ensure regulation should only be applied where necessary and low-risk liquor and gaming enterprises are free to develop without unnecessary government interference. I commend the bill to the House.

### **First Reading**

**Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (12.06 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

Question put—That the bill be now read a first time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

### **Referral to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee**

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Dr Robinson): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee.