



Speech By
Hon. Jarrod Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Record of Proceedings, 20 November 2013

LIQUOR (RED TAPE REDUCTION) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading



Hon. JP BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (3.49 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

I thank the State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee for its consideration of the Liquor (Red Tape Reduction) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013. I note that the committee tabled its report on 14 November 2013. I thank the stakeholders who took the time to make submissions to the committee's inquiry. I want to particularly thank Tigers Leagues Club, Wynnum Manly Leagues Club, Nambour Heights Bowls Club, Coolangatta Surf Club, Norths Leagues & Services Club in Kallangur, Capalaba Sports Club, Brothers Leagues Club Townsville and Queensland Lions Club at Richlands for their submissions of support of the bill before the House. These are the very types of organisations that we as a government are trying to assist to make their lives easier. It falls under the broad banner of revitalising the tourism industry in Queensland but also under my approach to red tape and regulation, which is that common sense should prevail in all circumstances.

The committee has made one recommendation about the bill, which is that the bill be passed. I thank the committee for that particular recommendation as the bill essentially will be passed tonight, and it will reduce red tape, making it easier for the liquor and gaming industry to operate in Queensland. This will be of great benefit to our tourism, clubs and hospitality industries, which will lead to greater opportunities and revenue for Queenslanders and the state as a whole.

Along with the red-tape-reduction initiatives in this bill, we have brought about a total of 44 changes thus far as we continue on our red-tape-reduction crusade. This includes streamlining the application process by abolishing the former liquor and gaming commission, which only met once a month to consider variations or applications, and implementing a single commissioner model that can hear and determine matters on a daily basis. In response to concerns raised by participants at the inaugural DestinationQ forum in June 2012, the government is undertaking the reduction of red tape and regulatory reform in the liquor and gaming industry in a phased approach. In September 2012, the government appointed an expert panel comprising business, community and government representatives to review liquor licensing and gaming laws. The expert panel contributed to the creation of a government discussion paper titled 'Red tape reduction and other reform proposals for regulation of liquor and gaming', which was released for public consultation on 15 February 2013.

In consultation with the expert panel, the government identified a number of phase 1 red-tape-reduction initiatives which were subsequently implemented in the Liquor and Gaming (Red Tape Reduction) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2013, which was passed by Parliament on 22 May

2013. This bill responds to recommendations made by the expert panel, and I want to take the chance now to thank the voluntary members on that panel for their work and for their commitment to working together to make a difference for the state. The best thing we can do for business in this state is to get back to a common-sense approach to regulation and get out of their way. We are a can-do government delivering on our promises to get the state's finances back on track because Queensland is a great state with great opportunities. I commend the bill to the House.