




Speech By
Michael Hart

MEMBER FOR BURLEIGH

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

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (4.20 pm): I rise to add to the debate on the Liquor (Red Tape Reduction) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. Can I start by congratulating the Attorney-General for bringing this bill to the House and for his ongoing efforts in reducing the red-tape burden in Queensland. This legislation continues the reforms assented to on 3 June 2013 in the Liquor and Gaming (Red Tape Reduction) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2013. Some of these amendments stem from recommendations coming from the expert panel appointed by the government to consult with community and business on reducing red tape in the liquor and gaming industries and delivers on the Newman government's commitment to slash red tape with a range of further liquor licensing reforms, including common-sense changes that will help business and support tourism, one of Queensland's four pillars.

A few examples of this are that up until now tour operators have had to apply for special licences for every single one of their vehicles or vessels and require approved managers just to serve one or two drinks. This is obviously a costly, complex, burdensome and unnecessary impost on those businesses. Tour operators will now be allowed to serve small amounts of alcohol without requiring a licence. Another example is the removal of the requirement for licensees to keep a responsible service of alcohol training register. At present the Liquor Act requires as a condition of the licence two things—that is, to keep a copy of the employee's RSA certificate and to keep a training register to record the expiry date of that certificate. Under the new national framework for RSA accreditation, from 1 July 2013, once you have an RSA it never expires. Therefore, there is no need to keep that particular register that lists the expiry date. It is just common sense. That is a wonderful red-tape-reduction initiative. Another example is to remove the requirement for persons trained in responsible management of licensed venues to complete responsible service of alcohol training. Currently you must hold both for the approval as an approved manager and, as we have heard from the previous member, when you do RMLV training it incorporates most of the relevant aspects of RSA training. So that again is a duplication that we really do not need. Another example is reducing the regulatory burden for licensees by allowing them to make payments of fees by instalments if they are facing financial hardship. There are approximately 6,730 licences in Queensland and previously a licence was automatically suspended if payment was not made before a 28-day period had elapsed. This will benefit a lot of clubs, restaurants and cafes in the communities around my electorate—clubs such as the Miami Surf Club, the Mermaid Beach Surf Club, the North Burleigh Surf Club, the Burleigh Mowbray Park Surf Club, Tallebudgera Surf Club, Palm Beach Surf Club, Pacific Surf Club, the bowls clubs, Palm Beach Soccer Club, Burleigh Bears, Burleigh Bombers. These are the types of venues that will no longer require an approval for a manager to be on site if they do not operate past midnight.

Moving to the adult entertainment industry, this legislation will also extend the term of adult entertainment permits from one year to three years. As it stands now, the application process takes about four months due to the strict probity and compliance checks carried out by the Prostitution

Enforcement Task Force. Obviously if it takes four months to complete this particular application and it only lasts for one year you basically have to get your licence in place and then start that process all over again for the following year. That adds a significant burden to the department that is managing that. This is another one of those great red-tape reductions that the Attorney-General is bringing before this House. Basically this is all about overregulation and bureaucracy of low-risk venues. It is unnecessary and hinders small business in our great state.

I was on the committee that looked at this particular piece of legislation. We considered the policy outcomes to be achieved by this legislation, as well as the application of fundamental legislative principles to the legislation, including whether it has sufficient regard to the rights and liberties of individuals and to the institution of parliament. On 16 October the committee called for written submissions. On 30 October we held a public briefing. The committee received 19 submissions. Some of those submissions came from the Tigers Leagues Club, the Capalaba Sports Club, the Security Providers Association of Australia and Clubs Queensland, as well as Broadbeach Licensed Venues Association and the surf club of Coolangatta. The bill was supported by the majority of the submitters and those who were opposed to the bill generally held their position on the basis that the bill does not address matters relating to late-night trading hours, an issue the government has highlighted in its discussion paper on red-tape reduction in the liquor and gaming industry. The committee made one recommendation and that was that the bill be passed.

Along with the changes in this bill, a total of 44 red-tape-reduction initiatives have been implemented for the liquor and gaming industry since this government was elected, revitalising the tourism industry in Queensland. The Newman government is continuing to deliver tangible benefits for business and the community by reducing burdensome red tape. The government has now progressed more than 400 specific red-tape-reduction initiatives with almost 250 of these reforms now fully implemented. The government has also taken an important step in its regulatory reform agenda with the release of the response to the Office of Best Practice Regulation's final report on the framework for measuring and reducing the burden of regulation. The framework is importantly aimed at creating a culture across government of reducing red tape and alleviating the frustration and burden faced by business, community organisations and individuals dealing with onerous and unnecessary regulation.

The best thing we can do for business in this great state is to get back to a common-sense approach to regulation and get out of their everyday business operations. We are a can-do government delivering on our promises because Queensland is a great state with great opportunity and I applaud the Attorney-General for bringing this bill to the House.