




Speech By  
**Andrew Powell**

**MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE**

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**MAJOR SPORTS FACILITIES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (5.36 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to the Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. I want to start my contribution by focusing on the objectives of the bill which amend the Transport Infrastructure Act 1994. My understanding, as the explanatory notes outline, is that this amendment is to facilitate a change to the tolling arrangements for the Logan Motorway and Gateway Motorway to fund the Logan Motorway Enhancement Project. The amendment will allow the minister to make a tolling declaration solely to facilitate the Logan Motorway Enhancement Project. As has been announced by the government, if approved, this project would be funded through toll increases for heavy vehicles and a new toll point for all vehicles on south-facing ramps at Compton Road. As other speakers have already mentioned, there is significant support primarily from the RACQ but also from the various trucking associations for this proposed work. The amendment is largely an administrative change that reflects the scope of when a road is allowed to be considered a toll road. For that reason, I, as the shadow minister in the LNP, will be supporting the change.

I want to briefly touch on two other amendments. As the speaker before me has mentioned, the changes to the Gaming Machine Act will adjust the tax methodology to the benefit of clubs that operate more than one premises in order to balance the existing controlled approach to club expansions. I am no fan of gambling. I am certainly no fan of poker machines. I, like many families, have personally experienced the devastating impact they can have on the social fabric and on the financial wellbeing of family members. However, I also get to witness firsthand, as the local member for the seat of Glass House, the incredible work that clubs like the Caboolture Sports Club does in our community.

It was not that long ago that I stood alongside the Caboolture Sports Club at the Dances Road softball diamond switching on the new lights for that diamond. I know the Caboolture Sports Club has done any number of investments in our various sporting and community groups throughout that region. Having had discussions with the management of the Caboolture Sports Club, I certainly see the benefits that this will allow. There are a number of other struggling clubs around the area which potentially the Caboolture Sports Club could step in and assist given this change. As long as the effects of dealing with the problem gambling aspects that I mentioned continue to be addressed partly by the clubs themselves and partly by the government, then I can see a benefit in supporting this amendment this evening.

My last comment is simply to support the amendment to be moved by the member for Beaudesert, the shadow minister. I have to confess to my colleagues—and I would like to say ‘for my sins’, but it really had nothing to do with me—that I had the misfortune of spending my childhood and much of my early teenage years growing up just north of Parramatta in Sydney.

**Mr Costigan:** And you're still getting counselling.

**Mr POWELL:** I am still getting counselling; I take that interjection from the member for Whitsunday. I do recall as a young child and a very impressionable teenager the fear that the term 'Lang Park' instilled in the many Cockroach supporters down there in Sydney at the time. It still does. I think we should take any opportunity we have here in Queensland to ram that down any supporter of the New South Wales Rugby League team or any other sporting code that uses that facility. My family and I are keen fans of the round ball game and we are big fans of Brisbane Roar, and I also want a similar fear to be instilled in any visiting team that comes to Lang Park. I want them to fear those two words—'Lang Park'. I therefore put my wholehearted support behind the amendment to be moved by the shadow minister. With those comments, I support the bill.