




Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Record of Proceedings, 9 November 2016

MOTION

Lockout Laws

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (6.00 pm): I move—

That this House calls on the Palaszczuk Labor government to scrap the introduction of a 1 am lockout from 1 February 2017 because it will destroy jobs, destroy our tourism reputation and make no credible difference to violence in our late night entertainment precincts.

As we start this debate tonight, history is being made. As I stand to speak, the new President of the United States of America, Donald J Trump, is delivering his first speech as President of the United States. Let me be the first in this House to congratulate the new President on his election. Long may our trade and partnership with the United States continue.

In 2015, the Labor government took to the election a series of policies with respect to alcohol fuelled violence. The LNP had the most comprehensive strategy in Australia for dealing with alcohol fuelled violence, which was the safe night strategy that included education, tougher penalties and getting those doing damage to citizens to accept responsibility for their actions.

Mr Costigan interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the member for Whitsunday. Education started in year 7 and went through to the final years of schooling. Over the ensuing years, we have seen a complete breakdown of that great comprehensive policy, because the members opposite took a political angle on this and decided that they had a better policy. Despite the fact that our policy was showing good signs of success, they thought theirs was a better policy.

Dr Lynham interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the member for Stafford, because this is his policy. He said that the only way to stop alcohol fuelled violence in the state of Queensland was to introduce new laws, including lockouts. That is what he said. He came into this place despite pulling the wool over the eyes of all Queenslanders with respect to his policy. On 8 July, John McCarthy wrote an article, which I will table, titled 'MP behind laws for alcohol-fuelled violence in Queensland says lockouts "don't work"'.

Dr Lynham: Read on.

Mr BLEIJIE: I will read on, with pleasure. The article states—

At his timeworn offices in Mary Street he leans across the table—

Let us play this out: he leans across the table, looks at the journalist and says—

'I've got a scoop for you. Lockout laws don't work.'

Dr Lynham: Now read on.

Mr BLEIJIE: The honourable member challenges me to read on and I shall. I assume he is still leaning over at the journalist. I quote—

'Lockouts in isolation are useless. The thing that works'—

that is, the one thing that works—

'is the reduction in trading hours so it should be called the reduction in trading hours legislation.'

Does the member want me to read out this bit? He continued—

Lockouts do absolutely zero to take away alcohol-induced violence.

He did not want me to read that. I table that article.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 8 July 2016, titled 'MP behind laws for alcohol-fuelled violence in Queensland says lockouts "don't work"' [\[2035\]](#).

The government said that it was going to review these laws. Who did they get to review the laws?

Mr SPEAKER: I am sorry, member for Kawana, I know you are on a roll. I want to counsel the Minister for Natural Resources. I know you are on the speaking list. I urge you not to continue or it may jeopardise your chance to participate in the debate.

Mr BLEIJIE: They said that we were going to have a review into the laws to ensure they are working, despite the fact that we had laws that were working. Who did they get to review the laws? They put out a tender and the tender was won by a Mr Peter Miller, principal research fellow at Deakin University. Let us look at the independence of Mr Peter Miller. On 9 April 2015, bearing in mind that that is before the legislation was introduced, Mr Miller wrote an article for the *Conversation* titled 'Early pub closing times work for Kings Cross—they will work for Queensland too'. I quote—

The newly elected Queensland government has said it will push ahead with its plan to introduce lockouts and 3am closing times for pubs and clubs. Despite objections from vested interests, there's now plenty of evidence to show this is a good idea for patrons and businesses alike.

Then he wins a tender to review the very laws that he has proposed. He is reviewing the laws that he has suggested. He said to the Labor government, 'You should have these laws in the state of Queensland.' They give him these laws in the state Queensland and then he wins money for a tender to review those very laws. That is not an independent review.

This minister should hang her head in shame. Education is not happening in the schools. The harsher penalties are not there and the ID scanners are not there. They should immediately stop their proposal for lockouts in February.