




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR LOGAN

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MAJOR SPORTS FACILITIES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (4.18 pm), continuing: I thank the member for Indooroopilly for the free character assessment and special opinion on my seating position in the previous debate. I assure the House that I will not be returning the favour. It is clear to the House what character assessments can be made of the member for Indooroopilly from his contribution.

As I said when I rose in this place on 13 October, we recognise that the Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill is a bill put before the House for a variety of purposes. The one I had spoken about briefly on the 13th was the amendment to the Major Sports Facilities Act, which regulates the stadiums of Queensland. In the modern day, we recognise that major sports events are reliant on the considerable patronage of major sponsors. Often the eyes of the world are on those major sporting events, and the ability to advertise at those times has considerable value.

We also see clever marketeers who seek to subvert, undermine or hijack those events for their own advertising purposes. This puts at risk our ability to maintain and fund our major sports facilities and to put on the events that Queenslanders value so much. This bill streamlines the process, as I said on the 13th, of ensuring that sponsors can invest with confidence in Queensland, supporting our stadium based sporting and cultural events. Sponsors will know that Queensland has a streamlined system to declare an area limited to the sponsors of an event and can react quickly to any ambush marketing to ensure the value of existing contracted sponsors.

The bill also makes a change to the Land Act to give certainty to particular groups of landholders who are adjacent to a declared non-tidal watercourse. This is a small change. Traditionally, those adjacent to non-tidal watercourses have had some rights of access for stock and access over these watercourses when they are not covered with water. This extends that to allow the leasing of a functioning non-tidal watercourse or lake. The landholder or a user with the permission of the adjacent landholder can lease the area, as long as they do not make disruption to the natural flow of water within the watercourse which is quite limited. During the hearings the committee asked extensive questions about the purpose of this amendment to the act and its consequences. I thank the departmental officers who followed up the requests of the committee to give further information and to give examples for the benefit of the committee. For those who are interested, the committee website holds some of those responses.

The bill also makes amendments to the Gaming Machine Act to ensure there is an adjustment of the tax methodology so as not to make less attractive the ability of a larger or well-managed club to take control of a failing club so as to ensure they can continue to provide the community service for which they were started. I know in my own area that the Greenbank RSL, which may surprise members is not located in Greenbank, briefly took over the management of another club, the Greenbank all-sports club, and set it on its feet again. They did not wish to take complete ownership, but that situation might be different in the future and provide better facilities for the local area.

Members of the committee were shocked and disappointed that some 60 clubs have closed their doors. Thousands of volunteers in the past would have put in so much effort to start these clubs and many continue to have a strong community presence. This bill makes it more likely that clubs in this position would be more likely to survive and continue to be a community hub which the original volunteers who started it envisaged.

Many members would know a club in their area that has closed down. I know the member for Gladstone feels keenly the loss of the Gladstone rugby league club and its legendary Marley Brown Oval, which was an institution and continues to be an institution for the city. I know that the member for Gladstone played there as did CT, Chris Trevor, a former federal member. Once these clubs no longer have the structures they once had, they are difficult to bring back. This bill ensures that it is less likely a local community will face this problem.

Lastly, the bill amends the Transport Infrastructure Act with regard to the Logan Motorway Enhancement Project, which has been put forward as an option to the government by Transurban Queensland as a market-led proposal. This \$450 million suggested Logan Motorway Enhancement Project seeks to overcome safety and congestion problems between the Mount Lindesay Highway, the Wembley Road overpass and Compton Road on the Gateway Motorway. The proposal—and at this stage it is only a proposal—as put forward at the reference stage will see no increase in tolls for motorists while it is envisaged that truck traffic will fund the improvements for those, for instance, travelling between Mount Lindesay Highway and the Gateway Motorway.

Transurban put forward a reference design and has done community consultation. Through this process I am sure the public have had their voice in the process. As I have said, the Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill has a variety of purposes for the betterment of Queensland, and I endorse it for the benefit of the House. Although the Transport and Utilities Committee did not receive extensive submissions or hold extensive hearings, we dutifully looked at the process of this bill and asked questions of ministers, and I thank the members of the committee for their participation.