




Speech By  
**Mark Ryan**

**MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD**

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

 **Mr RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (4.38 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 and in particular to speak to report No. 24 of the Transportation and Utilities Committee. I commend the committee on their report. It is a very good report. I note that the members of the committee recommend that the House pass this bill.

I want to speak in particular about the proposed amendment to the Gaming Machine Act. This is a very important amendment and it will mean a big change to community clubs all over Queensland. Not only will it provide the financial incentive for clubs to expand and create additional economic activity and more jobs in our community; it will also provide that helping hand to those clubs in need. In a couple of moments I will speak about some of the great work that is being done by the Caboolture Sports Club, which is in the electorate of Morayfield.

In the report I note there are a number of positive comments about the proposed amendment to the Gaming Machine Act. The explanatory notes state—

The Bill amends the Gaming Machine Act to remove taxation disincentives to the controlled expansion of community clubs. These changes are intended to assist clubs in establishing new premises in greenfield areas that might otherwise go without sporting, social and other facilities. The changes are also intended to assist clubs in helping smaller struggling clubs that may otherwise fail, thus risking the loss of their facilities to the community.

It is also important to recognise, as the report does, that these proposed amendments do not in any way alter the harm minimisation requirements in the legislation or the total number of gaming machine authorities which are to exist in Queensland—that is capped, and that cap remains—and they do not in any way alter the geographic requirements around the number of gaming machine authorities in a particular community. This is only a change to those tax disincentives that currently apply to community clubs, and removing those tax disincentives will make a big difference. I note in particular that the consultation which was conducted in respect of this particular amendment showed there is good and overwhelming support for the proposed amendment. In particular I note that the report rightly quotes Clubs Queensland's submission, which states—

... it is anticipated the tax change will stimulate the provision of community club services across the State as exemplified by the recently proposed North Lakes Sports Club development, which will deliver 100 new construction jobs, another 100+ jobs ongoing and \$25 million of investment in a growing region.

Clubs Queensland's submission further states—

The main outcome of changing the current taxation treatment is twofold:

1. Remove the financial burden caused by grouping amalgamated entities, which would allow any additional operational surpluses to be invested back into the local community, and
2. Enabling community clubs to assist smaller struggling clubs from closing their doors, whilst also promoting the future growth and development of community clubs, particularly in Greenfield sites.

I mentioned the Caboolture Sports Club earlier. It is a magnificent club in the Morayfield state electorate which returns benefits to the community every single day. The Caboolture Sports Club has been reinvesting in local sports organisations and other community activities for over 20 years. I must acknowledge the hard work of the management committee—CEO Kelvin Patch and chairman of the board Kevin Kaeser—and their vision for the Caboolture Sports Club and the good work that it does in the Caboolture region. The Caboolture Sports Club has stepped up in the past and assisted struggling clubs. Many years ago the Caboolture Sports Club purchased the Caboolture Lakes Bowls Club and saved that club from closing down. Relatively recently they purchased the Caboolture RSL club and saved the RSL club from closing down. The Caboolture Sports Club has also invested \$25 million to establish the new North Lakes Sports Club, which is due for completion next year.

By stepping up and investing in those other community clubs and providing those other venues for our community to come together, the Caboolture Sports Club is not only making that investment in our community but also providing job opportunities for many people who live in the Caboolture region. Many of them are young people who have part-time or casual jobs at those community clubs. For that reason the Caboolture region is very fortunate to have a community minded club like the Caboolture Sports Club which, as I said, invests a lot back into the community. Just this year I was speaking with the CEO Kelvin Patch about how we could do more to address the issue of domestic violence in the Caboolture region. Kelvin said, 'Mark, whatever you need, the Caboolture Sports Club will support.' Kelvin was able to donate a venue for a community expo to provide information about support services for domestic violence, and he actually provided the food and advertising for that particular event to make sure that we got the message out. Kelvin is very committed to taking action on domestic violence, and the entire Caboolture Sports Club is also behind him. I know that there is more we can do in that space, and I know that the Caboolture Sports Club is prepared to step up and make further investments.

The Caboolture Sports Club also invests significantly in other support programs. One matter that they take very seriously is their support for problem gamblers. Through their club they provide additional support programs to support problem gamblers, and I know they are there to look after their members and the broader community. Last year the Caboolture Sports Club provided over \$1.8 million to sporting clubs and community initiatives in the Caboolture region. That is a significant amount of money for an organisation to return back to the community, and I know that the community is very grateful. I have a very close working relationship with the Caboolture Sports Club. They do good work for our community, and I am very pleased to support them in that work and to be associated with them.

The Caboolture Sports Club, through its CEO Kelvin Patch, was one of the leading advocates in respect of this proposed amendment. Not only did they speak up on behalf of other community clubs all across Queensland; they played a very important educational role in making sure that legislators and other community members were aware of what this proposed amendment means and how it will benefit Queenslanders. I would like to put on the record my thanks to Kelvin and the Caboolture Sports Club for what they do in the region and for what they have done for community clubs all across Queensland by championing this particular amendment.

The bill before the House is a very good bill. It will make a big difference to community clubs. It will support their financial viability. It will create incentives for community clubs to reinvest in the community, and that is a good thing for jobs, a good thing for economic activity and overall a great thing for Queensland. I commend the bill to the House.