




Speech By
Ray Stevens

MEMBER FOR MERMAID BEACH

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MAJOR SPORTS FACILITIES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (5.24 pm): I rise to make a short but significant contribution to this omnibus bill before the House. Firstly, I would like to add further to the member for Kawana's wise words in relation to the Gaming Machine Act and the protection in the longer term of smaller clubs throughout Queensland. Most of us here representing different areas have these small clubs that suffer under duress of capacity, particularly bowling clubs with small membership and small visitation, and surf clubs as the member mentioned previously. It gives larger operators in Clubs Queensland, and we have some particularly spectacular operations on the Gold Coast, such as the Kurrawa Surf Club and the Northcliffe Surf Club, financial capacity to look after smaller clubs within the area.

Mr Langbroek interjected.

Mr STEVENS: Surfers Paradise is a growing club as well. I acknowledge the member for his interjection on that basis. We are very proud of Surfers Paradise. All of those clubs will benefit from the opportunity to expand their operations. I understand there is a small financial cost to the government, but I think the government has taken a wise move in this particular direction.

I would also like to comment on the changes to the Keno Act in terms of providing larger pools. We all know that when we look at a lotto prize pool of \$2 million it is not really worth buying an entry form until it jackpots to \$20 million or \$30 million. 'You are only going to win it once', is the mentality of the lotto player. I can assure members that the larger pool syndrome is a pathway to further success.

The member for Kawana mentioned the merger of the two great racing entities in Australia, Tabcorp and Tatts. I hope that goes ahead because racing in itself is under threat. Those betting organisations are the financial lifeblood of the racing industry. Sometimes I look at the boards and see the pools and I am just amazed at how little they are and I think it is absolute rubbish. As a punter I would not bother investing in that small pool because I know my return will be fairly minor. We also see on the nightly news the competition coming from overseas jackpots. You can go online to enter the American or Canadian \$365 million or Cash4Life jackpot pool. It is a wise move to compete with those overseas operators that are threatening the lifeblood of our gambling industry. We have to allow for these changes and movements. Whilst I do not see it as completely acceding to the gamblers' wishes, it is what is in the best interests of the usage of the gambling dollar which we all know is a fact of life within our society.

In relation to changes to the Major Sports Facilities Act, on the Gold Coast we have the fabulous Cbus Super Stadium and also Carrara Stadium with the AFL taking over that operation completely. The investment that they have made, I am told, is about \$100 million in the AFL's case at Carrara, and the longer term benefit to the Gold Coast of that AFL team has to be protected at every opportunity. These amendments give weight to the protection of those operations for the longer term. They are reasonable

and fair and we will be supporting them to make sure that the advertising rights of these major investors in community life on the Gold Coast are protected. We support the changes allowing for protection of advertising in those major football areas.

There is one other matter that I will comment on in relation to the lifting of the tolls on the Logan Motorway. The tolls are to be raised with commencement of works to improve and enhance the Logan Motorway. We all know what a success the Logan Motorway is in terms of east-west traffic. We could not do without it. I take the opportunity, whilst not exactly relevant to this bill, to highlight how the use of that toll road has seen a major amelioration of the traffic problems in that particular area. I draw the attention of the government to the IRTC, the Inter-Regional Transport Corridor, which would, if it utilised this tolling system that we are dealing with here today, allow an opportunity for that second highway between the Gold Coast and Brisbane to at least get into the planning stages as a tollway. Again on Monday we had more holdups on the M1. If we do not start planning today we will wake up one day and there will be a parking lot from Brisbane to the Gold Coast. The IRTC was put there for a specific purpose. A tollway as effective as the Logan tollway, and the changes we are making here to that particular act to enable enhancement of that tollway, would be very well utilised with the same methodology for the IRTC. I support the bill.