




Speech By
Tony Perrett

MEMBER FOR GYMPIE

Record of Proceedings, 1 November 2016

MAJOR SPORTS FACILITIES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (4.24 pm): I rise to speak to the Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. When I saw the title of this bill, it flashed through my mind that the Labor Party had started taking its cues from Ancient Rome. The government was trying to appease Queenslanders with sports facilities rather than address the serious issues that face this state. I was concerned that we were being given bread and circuses which is a term that was used satirically to describe a government which sought public approval by providing distractions and diversions instead of thoroughly exemplary public service and policy. While that is not what we have in this bill, the term very much reflects what we experience in Gympie. There are serious concerns this government is incapable of making decisions about a significant issue and resorts to distractions.

Mr POWER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member for Gympie has already gone through a long preamble of things that the bill is not about and is now continuing about something the bill is not about. I ask you to rule on relevance.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Furner): Order! I call the member for Gympie.

Mr PERRETT: The amendments to the Major Sports Facilities Act 2001 will provide an additional alternative process for the declaration of events and event periods at major sports facilities. This will ensure that all events, despite late scheduling, can be protected from unauthorised advertising by rival businesses which have not contributed to the event. Currently the process can be impractical when late scheduling or rescheduling of events is unavoidable due to weather or other unforeseeable circumstances.

The 21st century is now heralded as the era of creativity and innovation. That is why we need to put in place mechanisms which ensure that event organisers and sponsors who financially support events are not ambushed by inventive but unauthorised marketing and advertising techniques. The department of sport advised that these techniques could be rival firms flying a blimp over an event and skywriting or sign-writing by an aircraft; a banner or other sign that is attached to an aircraft other than any scheduled flights; advertising suspended on a building or other structure including banners or signs that are not permanent business signage; flags other than a state or national flag; and laser or digital projections.

Stadiums Queensland is responsible for operating facilities declared to be major sports facilities and hired out by national sporting organisations such as the National Rugby League, Australian Football League, Cricket Australia, as responsible for the Queensland Bulls and Brisbane Heat and the Australian cricket team. As co-chair of the Parliamentary Friends of Cricket and a cricket tragic, I welcome efforts to make sure the game is available to as many Queenslanders as possible, especially in regional areas. Cricket is a universal sport as it can be played throughout all regions of Queensland. Scattered throughout 339 clubs which hold 1,554 matches each week are more than 230,000

Queenslanders who play cricket. Every weekend 24,560 junior players and 16,450 senior players are seen wearing their team colours. In the Wide Bay region, which includes the Gympie electorate, there are more than 11,000 participants with more than 8,300 playing in schools.

As well as the amendments to the Major Sports Facilities Act 2001, this bill includes amendments to four other different acts. The amendments to the Gaming Machine Act 1991 are designed to adjust tax methodology to benefit clubs which operate more than one premise. The amendments to the Keno Act 1996 are to introduce a new Keno pooling arrangement to allow larger interstate pooled jackpots. The amendment to the Transport Infrastructure Act 1994 is to enable a change to the tolling arrangements for the Logan Motorway and Gateway Motorway to fund the Logan Motorway Enhancement Project. The amendment to the Land Act 1994 will allow for the leasing of a functioning non-tidal boundary watercourse to the state.

The Department of Natural Resources and Mines provided a number of examples of circumstances in which proposed changes to the provisions in the Land Act might apply. One example was the establishment of a new training field by the Brisbane Broncos on government owned land where a small portion of the field will project above the boundary of Ithaca creek. It said—

A lease over the portion of the training field to be constructed ... will ensure the Broncos have legal tenure over the infrastructure it delivers and ... The Broncos have committed to a package of community benefits to be delivered in return for the use of the site.

The willingness of this government to lease something in return for a package of community benefits is not the practice we see in Gympie. For the last two years the University of the Sunshine Coast has tried to lease an empty and unused TAFE building at the Gympie education precinct. TAFE does not even want the building. The community benefits for Gympie would be enormous as the USC wants to offer more courses and increase enrolments in a region which is crying out for increased opportunities for tertiary education. However—

Mr Rickuss: Why do they hate Gympie?

Mr PERRETT: I do not know. However, the Attorney-General and Minister for Training is incapable of making a decision. Out of sheer bloody-mindedness, the minister obstinately lets the building sit empty across the car park from the USC.

In simple terms, the amendment to the Land Act is about providing for the issue of a lease. It is also about letting the state sublease that lease to a third party who seeks to occupy and/or use that for a particular development. If the level of community benefit is the criteria, as it is in the amendment to the Land Act, then the minister should make a decision about the USC now. It would be a significant benefit to the community. The blocking of the USC expansion has meant that Gympie students have missed out since last year, and 2017 looks like it will become another year of missed opportunity. The minister's actions are not just unthinking; they are actually hurting the hopes and aspirations of our youth and the Gympie community is not benefitting.

This bill is about the government amending rules to adjust tax methodology, to allow bigger Keno jackpots, to ensure the rights of sponsors and to provide for the issue of a lease. All of these have been justified with submissions focused on how the community benefits. It is a pity the same principle has not been applied in Gympie. I support the bill.