




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

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LIQUOR AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (4.16 pm): What a great speech that was from the member for Hinchinbrook. It really did outline the sheer hypocrisy of those over there. It was a great pleasure as well to listen to the shadow Attorney-General in his hour-long speech in relation—

Ms Pease interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Member for Lytton, your interjections are not being taken; please desist. I call the member for Nanango.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: If she had something decent to say I would take it, but I did not, so there you go.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Nanango, I did not ask you to make a comment. Please continue with your speech.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I would like to make a very short contribution to the Liquor and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. This bill lays bare the fact that this Labor Party government has absolutely no idea what it is doing. Here we are once again in this chamber debating liquor legislation that repeals the legislation that Labor only just told us would be the be-all and end-all to alcohol fuelled violence in this state. So that we are really clear, this is legislation that repeals the legislation that, sometime last year, all of those opposite said we had to have. The member for Hinchinbrook listed a couple of those members, and in particular I remember the member for Barron River because he was so passionate about this. Michael Trout, who actually lives in the area and supports the tourism industry and who understands what his local community would do, would never have voted like that member for Barron River, and that is why we need to get Michael Trout back into Barron River.

Mr Costigan: Get 'the Trout' back into the Barron!

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take the interjection from the member for Whitsunday: we do need to get 'the Trout' back into Barron River. But I digress. To say that this is an embarrassment for the Labor government is an understatement. The Attorney-General and the member for Stafford have had to front up to the media with flip-flops and backflips, having no clue what they are doing except what they have been pushed into. On 2 January, when the Deputy Premier was Acting Premier—

Government members interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Those opposite laugh about the Deputy Premier being the Acting Premier, but it is no laughing matter. Those opposite are all sitting there waiting for the Deputy Premier to slip into the shoes of the Premier. Maybe they are in the wrong faction.

On 2 January we saw the beginning of the backflip. We saw the Acting Premier dip her toes into the water. The government needed to do something because the trains were not turning up, the trains had completely stopped and the poor member for Sandgate was under pressure to resign. The Acting Premier said, 'No, no. Hang in there. We are going to test the waters on alcohol fuelled violence.' The

Acting Premier said, 'These laws may not be introduced.' This rang alarm bells in the minds of every small business owner, every club owner and anyone in the hospitality industry trying to run their business in this great state. They were looking for certainty. Instead, the government, which had promised to pass these laws, backflipped and said it may not introduce them. Then the Premier came back and said, 'I know nothing about that. I might have to have another review.' I think she did—a review into something the cabinet had already decided. Then she took it back to the cabinet and said, 'Guys, hang on a minute. We have to review this again. We are only up to 164 reviews. We need 165 by the end of this week to meet the quota, so we are going to review it.' They reviewed it and then came out and said, 'Oh my God. We have to backflip.' The poor old member for Stafford and the poor Attorney-General! I have never seen two people look more embarrassed. It was an embarrassment for this government.

How was it reported? It was reported by the ABC that the government had abandoned its signature policy. It will not enforce the 1 am lockdown because there was no noticeable drop in assaults. There was no evidence, so 'we need to do a backflip'. It is clear that this government is completely clueless. It is clear that it has no direction. Members opposite need to stand by the values they so loudly espoused in this House 12 months ago. It will be interesting to see where they sit.

When the 1 am lockdown laws were first brought into this House, we on this side of the House spoke with common sense. As I was driving to Brisbane from Kingaroy at 5.30 one morning I caught a talkback conversation on the ABC in relation to the 1 am lockdowns. A young English backpacker was interviewed—

Mr Costigan: That's right.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Did the member for Whitsunday hear it?

Mr Costigan: It is a great story. Listen in, everybody.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: This English backpacker, who had been holidaying in Cairns, was told by a friend at Heathrow Airport, 'Don't bother going to Queensland. Definitely don't go to Cairns and there is no point going to Brisbane because you cannot finish work and go out and be responsible.' Members do not need to believe me—

Government members interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: The ignorance of those opposite. I know that they are embarrassed. It is embarrassing. Those opposite need to listen to the ABC podcast. You need to educate yourselves slightly before you come into this House—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Member for Nanango, direct your comments through the chair, please.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Those opposite need to come into this House a little more educated. They should listen to the podcast of this interview, because it was really interesting. This backpacker from London—

Ms Pease: Evidence based? Peer reviewed?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: That those opposite question the validity of a young British backpacker displays their arrogance. It is absolutely outstanding. Those opposite are damaging the tourism industry in Queensland by their sheer ignorance. It certainly should not surprise us at all.

The LNP had put in place the \$44.5 million Safe Night Out Strategy to combat alcohol fuelled violence. It was developed in consultation with people who knew and understood the community—something those opposite have absolutely no idea about. The LNP's Safe Night Out Strategy had 60 initiatives. Two of the key initiatives were compulsory drug and alcohol education in Queensland schools from years 7 to 12—an excellent policy that those opposite have let go by the wayside—and the establishment of 15 safe night precincts across Queensland to ensure popular nightspots had coordinated prevention and support initiatives in place to keep their patrons safe.

Labor should have given these initiatives a chance to work. Instead, it slashed and burned everything it could for political gain. In this instance it has gained nothing at all. All it has done is place a great deal of stress and angst on the industry. It has wasted a lot of people's time and effort. It has taken away from small business owners—busy people who just want to get on and run their businesses. They do not need this Labor government constantly moving the goalposts and meddling with their viability. As we in the LNP have travelled all over Queensland we have spoken to those business owners, who see right through this shallow Labor government. We understand the time they have wasted over the last two years. This bill lays bare the fact that this Labor government has absolutely no idea what it is doing. The member for Stafford is completely at a loss and the Attorney-General has no idea what she is doing.