




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Record of Proceedings, 2 March 2017

LIQUOR AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Hon. G GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (5.08 pm): I rise to support the bill. The bill aims to encourage responsible drinking practices and create a safer environment in and around licensed premises in Queensland. It is about ensuring that pub and club goers can enjoy a safe night out and return home to their families. It is based on evidence accumulated from a review of the first six months of operation of Queensland's alcohol fuelled violence laws, conducted by Deacon University's Institute for Social Science Research. I believe the measures contained in this bill are the best way to reduce the toll of alcohol fuelled violence. I place on record my condolences to the Miller family in relation to the untimely death of Cole Miller.

We know that reducing permanent liquor service hours is the best way to reduce violence and that is exactly what the Labor government has done. This is a government that listens. We have consulted and listened to the evidence. The interim evaluation report noted that enforcing lockouts would not have a significant effect on existing alcohol fuelled violence trends in Queensland. We have gathered that evidence. The Attorney-General has listened to it. Our cabinet has listened to it. In light of this, the government considers that enforcing the statutory 1 am lockout would be inconsistent with the evidence based approach.

We have heard a lot, particularly from the member for Kawana, about who has been rolled and who has not been rolled. He asks whether Minister Lynham is being rolled in cabinet. I do not know exactly what went on in cabinet in the Campbell Newman government, but I can only guess what went on if we take the inexperience of the then attorney-general, the member for Kawana, and the manner in which he conducted himself in public. He showed arrogance and was drunk on power. The way the legal profession saw his actions was an absolute shame.

A government member interjected.

Ms GRACE: I take that interjection. If he thinks that the way that they operated is appropriate—that is picking fights with whoever they could out there such as the legal profession or anybody who stood in their way; drunk on power and away they went—then let me tell him that that is not how the Labor cabinet works. Nobody has been rolled in relation to this. We have consulted, we have listened and we have acted.

I have far too much respect for Minister Lynham to be going around in this House claiming people have been rolled. Maybe they did that when Campbell Newman was in government. Let me tell those opposite that it does not happen under us. They can ask anyone in the legal profession around Brisbane who turned on the member for Kawana about that. Make no secret in this place, we are on this side of the House because of the actions, the arrogance and the way he conducted himself when he was the attorney-general in this state. All I can say to the member for Kawana is, 'Thank you very much because we are going to be here for a long time.'

I noticed that the members from the Gold Coast, a major tourist area, have not mentioned Easter Sunday trading. The member for Currumbin and the member for Mermaid Beach have spoken. There was not a word about Easter Sunday trading. They said nothing—not a word—about it and yet they come from one of the major tourist areas in Queensland. Bring on the election because I do not know whether a lot of them are going to survive.

The speech from the member for Kawana referred to amendments I flagged yesterday to the Trading (Allowable Hours) Act to make Easter Sunday an open trading day for all non-exempt shops in South-East Queensland. Somehow the member for Kawana believes he is the only one who knew that shops do not open in the south-east corner on Easter Sunday. Let me tell the member for Kawana that I have lived in Brisbane all my life and I am well aware of what happens in terms of non-exempt shop.

Let me give him a bit of a time frame. The arrogance of the member for Kawana to believe that he was the only one who thought about this is quite astounding. Let me give those opposite a bit of a lesson. On 31 August 2016 we set up and announced the review of trading hours headed by John Mickel. On 1 September we introduced the IR bill which would make Easter Sunday a public holiday. In that speech I flagged that this is exactly what we would be doing. He thinks it was his thought bubble. That is how arrogant the member for Kawana is that he thought he was the only one who thought about this issue.

On 30 November the IR bill was debated and passed. It made Easter Sunday a public holiday, which, I might add, the LNP did not support. They did not support making Easter Sunday a public holiday. On 22 December John Mickel delivered his report to government. On 14 February the government announced its response to the review recommendations. I personally gave the member for Kawana a copy of the review. On 1 March we introduced the Trading (Allowable Hours) Amendment Bill to put in place what we started in August. He has the audacity to come into this House, as arrogant as he is—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Ms GRACE: He will not stop interrupting because he can dish it out but he cannot take it. He can dish it out but he cannot take it.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Millar): Minister, please try not to provoke those opposite.

Mr BLEIJIE: I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. The minister is referring to another bill before the House.

Mr Power: It is not a point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Logan, I am listening to the member for Kawana.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Logan, respect the chair!

Mr BLEIJIE: The minister is talking about the allowable trading hours legislation that she introduced yesterday. She just mentioned it. That is actually not what we are debating today. We are debating the liquor laws, not her bill. I can understand why she might be a bit confused. That is another bill on another subject for another day.

Mr POWER: I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. That was clearly not a point of order. It was an attempt to disrupt the House. He should be counselled on disrupting the House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can take your seat, member for Logan. Minister, I ask you to come back to the subject of the debate.

Ms GRACE: They can dish it out but they cannot take it. The member for Kawana is the worst one at that over there. The *Hansard* from yesterday reads—

We are going to oppose the amendment on the principle that we cannot support it because it is rotten to the core in terms of how it is being introduced.

Let me remind the member for Kawana about how things happened. He stood in here and said, 'Our government never introduced things like this. We never introduced them at all.' What a short memory he has. I ask the member for Kawana to cast his mind back to 4 June 2014. Does it ring any bells, member for Kawana? I will refresh his memory—yet another bungle of the member for Kawana. The government's industrial relations changes had to be repealed because the High Court had found similar provisions in New South Wales infringed on the implied right in the Constitution of freedom of speech. That was his bungle in terms of the Industrial Relations Act. He put in place laws in this state that were unconstitutional. How could this be done members might ask? He would not take—

Mr BLEIJIE: I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. We are not debating the Sustainable Planning Act, which was passed in 2014. We are debating an amendment to the liquor laws 2017. The minister is referring to the sustainable planning legislation amendments that were made based on a High Court case. That was many years ago.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Kawana. I call on the minister to come back to the long title of the bill.

Ms GRACE: The member for Kawana continually references the manner in which this was brought before the House. This is completely relevant to the argument that I am making with regard to this bill. The member for Kawana did not have the courage to come in here and change that bill. He had to hide behind the member for Callide. The member for Callide came in here in the middle of the night. He whispered the amendment. Members on this side of the House who were there could hardly hear it. He was cowering behind him.

He did exactly what he is saying they never did in government. They used the Sustainable Planning (Infrastructure Charges) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill to move amendments to the Industrial Relations Act. Here he was in this House last night saying that their government never did that in relation to amendments like those that we are talking about here today.

Mr HART: I rise to a point of order in terms of relevance, Mr Deputy Speaker. The long title of the bill does not talk about any of these things. The minister has completely strayed off the long title of the bill.

Mr POWER: I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. I think there should be some latitude because this is directly refuting an argument that has been put to the House as to why this bill should not be voted for. It is important that the minister actually respond to what the member for Kawana said earlier. She is answering it very convincingly.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Minister, I understand you are trying to use examples but please stick to the long title of the bill.

Ms GRACE: I will, but they have been caught out. The member for Kawana got caught out. He did exactly the same thing, yet last night in this House he said, 'We are innocent on this. We have never done that.' He has been caught out. They can dish it out but they cannot take it.

The planning bill at the time had nothing to do with the member for Kawana's portfolio, yet they came into this House, debated it and moved that amendment. Yet they stood in here last night accusing us of doing what they have never done.

Mr WATTS: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. A clear direction has been given to be relevant. This is clearly not relevant. Let's get back to the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Millar): Minister, you are drawing a long bow here. Could you stay relevant to the long title of the bill, please?

Ms GRACE: Even though the amendments were brought in under that bill, we supported the amendments. Yet they are saying today that they will not support the amendment to allow Easter Sunday trading in the south-east corner, even though it is available to all other regions outside of this area. Is it really their position? What has happened to the Liberal Party in this place? They will not even support amendments that bring about greater economic growth, more jobs, more hours and more tourism.

The member for Kawana clearly had a thought bubble that they were not going to support these changes. I would like to be a fly on the wall when the NRA talks to the member for Kawana because they are not very happy with that statement. Not only do they support the non-exempt shops in this state; they also support many of the small and medium sized specialty shops that open when the anchor in large shopping centres in the tourism areas open. Here is the member for Kawana representing the Sunshine Coast and he is going to oppose extending Easter Sunday trading now that it is a public holiday. They cry crocodile tears about people losing their jobs because of the liquor changes. Yet not one of them has spoken up in relation to the cut in penalty rates for the lowest paid workers in this state. They can dish it out but they cannot take it.