




Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

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MOTION

ID Scanners

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (6.02 pm): What a bungle and stuff-up the implementation of ID scanners has been in Queensland. The Attorney-General will get up in about five minutes time and she will say, 'It's the LNP's laws. It's the LNP's laws.' Let me say in the first 10 seconds—

Mr SPEAKER: One moment, member for Kawana. I notice you are on a roll, but could you start again and move the motion?

Mr BLEIJIE: Of course. I move—

That this House calls on the Palaszczuk Labor government to adopt the LNP's common-sense approach to ID scanners and close the current two-hour loophole to ensure that only venues that trade after midnight in safe night precincts have to operate ID scanners after midnight rather than 10 pm.

The Attorney-General will stand up in five minutes and say, 'It was LNP laws. They introduced ID scanning.' She will not say they have been in government for three years, and she has forgotten about what has happened during those three years. Let me say at the outset that the LNP did introduce ID scanning laws as a part of our safe night strategy many years ago—four or five years ago now. We did that because it was part of a comprehensive plan tackling alcohol fuelled violence, and we stuck to our plan.

What have we seen from the Labor government? They announced a policy on trading hours. They then went to the election with different trading hours policies. They introduced different trading hours policies—the third trading hours policies—after the election. Then they said they were going to do lockout laws. Then they changed their mind and did not introduce lockout laws. They voted against ID scanners and then introduced ID scanners, relying on the same evidence for not introducing them and then relying on the same evidence to introduce them because apparently the evidence changed overnight.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection; the member is confused. All members opposite would be. I reckon those ministers would sit in that cabinet room when the member for Redcliffe talks about ID scanners and say, 'Do we have to get our ID scanned at the moment or don't we? We have no idea what's going on.' That is what Queenslanders are saying. There was no public education campaign with respect to ID scans. As we see now, there is the ridiculous situation in Caxton Street. If people go to The Caxton Hotel after 10 o'clock on any night of the week and have dinner, they have to get their ID scanned. If they do not want to get their ID scanned they can walk 10 metres across the road to Gambaro's bar. They can walk in until midnight without having their ID scanned. If they don't want to go to The Caxton Hotel after 10 o'clock they can walk 10 metres across the road and they can have the same alcoholic beverage, but they do not have to get their ID scanned. How ridiculous!

Mr Langbroek: What if you're the Prince of Denmark?

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection. If someone is the Prince of Denmark they get whisked straight in, but if they are a French wine maker, no, they are not allowed in. If they are a Queenslander without ID, they are not allowed in. This motion says they should fix the mess by this parliament agreeing to support changing it from 10 pm to midnight. Then everyone would be on the same level playing field in the safe night precinct and these issues will have been sorted. This loophole that this Attorney-General has introduced will be closed. That is what happens when there is no consultation.

Interestingly, the Attorney-General has never shown up at the Queensland hotel awards, which I was at last week. The Minister for Education, Kate Jones, was. I am going to quote the President of the Queensland Hotels Association. When introducing Minister Kate Jones, the tourism minister, Tom McGuire said, 'I'd like to thank Kate Jones, the Minister for Tourism, because she is working internally as hard as she can to get the Labor government to change their policy on ID scanners.' The tourism minister is doing her best, he said, to get the Labor Party to change their policy. Then the Attorney-General stood up here this morning and said how wonderful ID scanning is working. However, we know of the internal friction and factions they have opposite. We know the small business minister, the member for Brisbane Central, is meeting with the hotel industry behind closed doors and saying, 'Folks, we know we stuffed it up. Just bear with us. Kate Jones and I are trying to fix it. We know.'

I say to the Attorney-General that if there is no issue with ID scanners, as she said this morning, why is it that the Premier's Chief of Staff, Mr Barbagallo, is actually phoning licensees and asking them about the issues that they are experiencing with ID scanners?

Mrs D'Ath: It's called consultation.

Mr BLEIJIE: 'Consultation,' she says! It is after the fact, after it has been introduced. After the fact the Attorney-General stands up in here and says, 'It's wonderful. It's all working,' but the Premier's Chief of Staff is phoning licensees and saying, 'What's wrong? What can we do to fix it before an election?', and now she says she is consulting. Is she admitting she did not consult and she has outsourced her job to the Premier's chief of staff? Is that what she is saying?

The fact is she bungled it. The fact is everything she has touched in relation to liquor licensing she has bungled, whether it be ID scanners or wanting to breath-test patrons of the Gold Coast when leaving an establishment. She gave an exclusive to the *Gold Coast Bulletin*. Then when the Premier complained, the Attorney said, 'That wasn't me,' yet her quotes were in the paper—an exclusive. What a nightmare!

(Time expired)