




Speech By
Julianne Gilbert

MEMBER FOR MACKAY

Record of Proceedings, 10 October 2017

MOTION

ID Scanners

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (6.21 pm): I rise to oppose the motion. Only our government, the Palaszczuk government, has the fortitude to drive real change in Queensland's drinking culture. Only our government is serious about tackling alcohol fuelled violence. We looked at the best available evidence to determine what will make a real difference in cutting violent assaults and aggressive drinking behaviour. We looked at the research so that we could do our part to change the drinking culture.

International research indicates that for every hour of reduced liquor trade there is a significant decrease in alcohol related assaults. This has informed every step of our multifaceted policy approach. We have reduced liquor service hours statewide. We have stopped new approvals for late night takeaway liquor. We have banned the sale of rapid intoxication drinks after midnight. Importantly, we are committed to an independent evaluation of the tackling alcohol fuelled violence policy. We have continued to refine our policy approach.

I note the lack of constructive engagement from the LNP in this process. We looked at the interim evaluation report to see what is working and what could work better. As a result, we introduced the operation of existing ID scanner laws—never proclaimed by the LNP—from 1 July this year. ID scanners are an important part of our government's strategy to tackle alcohol fuelled violence. We want to keep people on banning orders out of our precincts and promote good behaviour within them.

In my electorate of Mackay people stopped going out to our clubs. We are seeing the results in Queensland and we are seeing the results in our electorates including my own electorate of Mackay. I have spoken to local patrons and heard how ID scanners are making a difference to people's behaviour. This reflects our ongoing intent to change the drinking culture in Queensland. I was very pleased to see that our police are noticing a real change in that drinking culture, too. In particular, I note a media report on Channel 7 on 6 October. They think ID scanners are contributing to a drop in the number of negative incidents being recorded by police. The number has almost halved. This is a good thing. As a local bar manager quoted in the same story said, the scanners are keeping people in check a bit more and people are enjoying themselves—as they should.

People are returning to the CBD, whereas before scanners they were leaving. Before scanners, a lot of nightclubs in our CBD just closed down. People were deciding to go to taverns and local sports clubs in their own areas because they did not want to go into the CBD. Now, after scanners, three nightclubs are getting ready to reopen and a new bar for over-25s has opened up. Night-life is returning to the CBD.

Mackay is a great place to enjoy a night out. We have a distinctive and emerging hospitality industry. The great success of the Elton John concert is testament to this. We want to make sure it is a safe experience, too. Our laws, including the workable ID scanner regime, are an important part of

keeping patrons safe, keeping staff safe and keeping police safe. I am proud to see local members of our hospitality industry working together with the police and emergency services. That is why it is important that we continue to back the current laws that are working well.

The LNP has no credibility on this issue. The LNP is not serious about tackling alcohol fuelled violence. It has flipped and flopped on this issue since day one. There is one true indicator of the LNP's weak approach on this issue. If the LNP were serious about this issue, it would not be making the member for Kawana its public face on this issue. That is the simple truth. The government will look at the evidence about tackling alcohol fuelled violence.

(Time expired)