




Speech By
Linus Power

MEMBER FOR LOGAN

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LIQUOR AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (5.48 pm): I know that every resident of Logan wants to see alcohol fuelled violence eradicated in Queensland. They want a government that can be strong on the issue and act firmly on the evidence to make change. Good governance is the process of being determined and strong enough to act for the public benefit. Good governments, though, should also reflect and listen to advice, new ideas and new research. Good governments should recognise that powerful, entrenched interests have their arguments but should not be afraid to listen and respond to good arguments that take a new path towards a policy goal.

The goal of the government's policy will remain the same. Our goals are to create new norms of behaviour in our drinking establishments, to make a definitive cultural change around drinking and to encourage responsible drinking practices. We on this side of the House believe that every visitor to a licenced premises should be in a safe and secure environment where they can enjoy the entertainment or sport, talk with friends, have a meal or even have a drink if they choose. The review of the latest research has led to a change in the direction but we have kept the government's policy goals. This is a strength of this government and it was a weakness of the last government.

Those in the former Newman-Nicholls government simply could not take on new ideas. They could not reflect new research or alternative approaches. They dogmatically stuck to wrong-headed approaches even if they did not work. We all remember the failed boot camps from the former LNP attorney-general: the lack of evidence, the high cost and the helicopter rides. Nothing could move them—nothing. We saw them being told by the public they were wrong at the Redcliffe by-election. We saw them being told by the public they were wrong at the Stafford by-election. They did not listen. They ignored the very evidence of the votes coming in. They lost the Redcliffe by-election. They were still incapable of listening. They could not listen to the evidence—incapable. Then the 2015 election was, for many, simply a referendum on this style of government—the Nicholls style of government. What is so sad for the people of Queensland is that those opposite are still completely incapable of listening. We still see that they are the same: dogmatic and unable to see new evidence. If they are ever returned to government, they would be the same or worse.

Instead, the Palaszczuk government is different. We are able to absorb the research and adapt to get the best public benefit for Queenslanders. The amendments in the bill will give effect to the evidence provided from across Queensland as part of the six-month interim evaluation report. Because of this research, the government will improve the conditions around temporary late-night extended hours permits. Some licensees have been able to use the laws to continue the 5 am liquor service despite the introduction of 2 am and 3 am last drinks. The interim evaluation report made some findings that help us improve and make safer the practices of licensed establishments.

Since the reduction in the permanent liquor service hours on 1 July 2016, licensees have sought these permits to 5 am and attempted to have a 'business as usual' practice. To ensure these reforms take place as soon as possible and are consistent with the original intent of the tackling alcohol fuelled violence policy, future pending applications will have the new special occasion criteria applied—

undoubtedly, picnic days or race days will be a special occasion—to ensure that any special permits are indeed a special occasion, not just the usual Saturday night. This shows the Palaszczuk government committed to reducing liquor service hours consistent with the commitment we made to the people of Queensland to make our licensed establishments safer.

I note the member for Kawana made a loud noise about the change to Easter Sunday trading. Today not one member, particularly the ones from the Gold Coast, has wanted to join him in his silly folly to argue that. He has been abandoned by the backbench. The Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations rubbished his claims and revealed his hypocrisy when it comes to this issue. This is all about business, jobs and tourism. No-one in the LNP, especially those members from the Gold Coast, has shown any interest in business, jobs and tourism.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Millar): Order! Could I ask the minister and the shadow minister to stop interjecting across the chamber? I am trying to hear the member for Logan.

Mr POWER: Thank you for your protection, Mr Deputy Speaker. We know that a minority of patrons can ruin a good night out with their behaviour. To monitor this minority, the government kept open the option of ID scanners and it continued to listen and consult based on evidence. Based on the interim evaluation report's endorsement of ID scanning to enforce banning orders, the government has announced that from 1 July 2017 relevant licensed premises in safe night precincts will be required to operate an approved ID scanning system from 10 pm on any day they are authorised for extended trading hours to sell liquor beyond midnight. This means that premises can better ensure the safety of their patrons.

In my own electorate of Logan we value our licensed premises. This last Sunday I went with my wife and three young kids to a Sunday lunch at the Jimboomba pub. It is an institution in the area. It was a real pleasure to share a meal with my family amongst so many other families. We cherish that and we value the safe and secure atmosphere. Although I have not drunk in pubs for many years, I regularly go to the Logan Village pub on a Friday night to sell raffle tickets supporting the Logan Village school. The pub is a warm and inviting place for young people, old people, families—they all gather. The raffle on Friday night is the meat tray from Christoffel Country Meats at Olley's Orange Country Market, which I definitely recommend. Anyone who wants a ticket can give me a ring on a Friday night to try their luck.

Brendan, the manager, is warm and welcoming but he also wants to maintain behaviour and a high standard of service. We want to support that to ensure that our licensed premises are places that are safe and alcohol fuelled violence is reduced. This bill shows that this government listens to Queenslanders and listens to evidence that maintains the goal of reducing alcohol fuelled violence. We wanted to use the evidence to produce good policy, to improve where improvements could be made. We have heard that this opposition is incapable of listening especially to evidence. Queenslanders expect this government to listen to evidence and to take action to reduce harm caused by alcohol fuelled violence. This bill supports those objectives. I commend the bill to the House.