




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS

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LIQUOR AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (5.50 pm): I rise today to speak in support of the Liquor and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017. From the outset I would like to wholeheartedly thank the research director and the committee staff who did an exceptional job supporting the committee when we had a heavy workload in other areas. I would also like to pay tribute to the Premier and Attorney-General in acknowledging that there needed to be a legislative change incorporating feedback from industry, stakeholders, the communities and evidence based policy.

I would also like to acknowledge those who took their time to submit to the committee process and appear before the committee as witnesses. Consultation and collaboration are hallmarks of this Palaszczuk government. They were sorely lacking when the LNP Newman government was in power. While those opposite today have faux conniptions about the lack of consultation in this space, I am confident that it is far above and beyond what we would find in a regime of theirs. The measures in this bill enhance our government's tackling alcohol fuelled violence policy initiatives. The goal of our policy remains the same—to foster cultural change around drinking, to encourage reasonable drinking practices and to create a safer environment in and around licensed premises in Queensland.

These measures have been introduced now that the government has had the opportunity to review the findings of research conducted by Deakin University's institute for social science into the first six months of operation of Queensland's alcohol fuelled violence laws. This bill's amendments give effect to the evidence provided from across Queensland as part of the six-month interim evaluation report. These measures are the best option to reduce the toll of alcohol fuelled violence in a quantifiable and effective manner.

This bill represents changes in a long journey with legislators and the entertainment and night-life industry. At its heart, it repeals the 1 am lockout, repeals the 3 am safe night precincts model, alters trading hours for licensees removed from the safe night precincts due to boundary changes, tightens the temporary late-night extended trading hours permit regime and extends the banning order sentencing regime to prescribed drug offences. In addition, this bill clarifies that licensees of regulated premises with approved regular extended trading hours beyond midnight must continue to scan patron IDs if serving liquor beyond their usual hours under a temporary late-night extended hours permit.

When I talk to mums and dads or when I talk to people in my community about trading hours for pubs and clubs and the regulations or the operations, overwhelmingly it comes back to one thing—people want to have peace of mind that they can go out and have a good time with their friends and come home safely. This bill and the Palaszczuk Labor government's bills before it aim to achieve that. We are committed to getting the balance right. Unlike those opposite, Labor in government does not put ego ahead of the community.

It was clear through the submissions and the witnesses appearing before the committee that industry supports the repeal of lockouts for safety. Safe Night Townsville CBD Precinct stated that there was never a clear evidence based conclusion that lockouts work for the reduction of offences and

assaults. Broadbeach SNP talked about the potential to have intoxicated patrons on the streets with a lockout and concerns around safety and security being controlled in the same manner as a licensed premises, stating, 'Locking patrons out on the street will cause more issues.' Mr John Lynch of the Safe Night Cairns CBD Precinct talked at length about the impact of lockouts, with the result being that distressed people are left out on the street separated from their friends and their belongings and tourists are stranded in a foreign place.

There can be no doubt that we bring a different style of government to those opposite. While the statement of reservation talks of major policy backflips and broken election promises, on this side of the House we call this an open and consultative style of government. Admittedly, my time in this place has been short, but never have I seen a statement of reservation in a committee report with the amount of vitriol, rhetoric and carry-on as the one from the opposition on this bill. Not content with simply stating the facts, they needed to stoop to the lowest common denominator—to juvenile politicking.

Queenslanders deserve better out of this place. They deserve an opposition which is out of the gutter. Rather than stating a position, those opposite have taken cheap pot shots. The member for Coomera just said that, aside from one item in the bill, we had agreement in the committee process, yet there is a lengthy statement of reservation that took shot after shot at the government and government committee members. They even stooped so low as to make imputations from the questions I asked of witnesses. I would like to pause on that matter for a moment because the member for Coomera mentioned this in his speech, as well as this being an item in the statement of reservation. It is cute the way they have put this together. It is very cute indeed to go through a line of questioning and pick out a particular question and then draw imputations from that.

If members turn to page 8 of the transcript, they will actually see a very long dialogue that I engaged in with the professor around the topic of preloading and how that may impact on lockouts. For the record, it is worth highlighting that there were in fact a number of points and back-and-forth dialogue between the professor and me, so it is very, very cute to just take one of those comments and responses about that. They have twisted people's words to highlight their own points or to highlight in their view someone else's failings, and I think that is absolutely reprehensible. It just goes to show the calibre of those opposite.

The member for Kawana stood up in here for 60 minutes and took cheap pot shots at anyone he could across the chamber. I would like to see an analysis of how much time he spent talking about the content of the bill or the committee report versus commentary on government members. Once again, this demonstrates that the opposition do not have content or policy and they do not have anything positive to talk about. All they are doing is simply taking pot shots at individuals and processes.

The opposition could have taken the higher ground and said, 'We acknowledge that this is evidence based policy. We acknowledge that the government may need to adapt and be nimble and operate in real time—that the government might need to see evidence based policy and react to that.' That is not what they have done. What they have done instead is sit through the committee process and say there is only one little point of difference with the government but then they have produced a lengthy statement of reservation full of rhetoric, vitriol and carry-on and have come into this place and continued to take shots at the government. I think the community deserve better than what they are getting from the opposition. It is little wonder that the LNP are over there and not here on the government side of the House because they have absolutely no credibility around that.

As I have said, there is a statement of reservation drawing imputations from questions. That demonstrates the true desperation of those opposite. Asking questions of witnesses is what the committee process is all about. Taking one question from a line of questioning out of context in an attempt to prove a shaky point is an absolutely low act.

Mr Crandon: You protest too much.

Ms BOYD: No, Michael, you acted unprofessionally.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Linard): Order! Member for Pine Rivers, I ask that you use the correct titles when addressing members. Members for Coomera, Beaudesert and Gaven, I would like to mention your interjections are not being taken as readily as they are being thrown. Member for Pine Rivers, you have one second.

Ms BOYD: The one thing that those opposite prove is that they do not have the intestinal fortitude or the maturity to deal with tough issues and to govern with empathy and consideration or any level of professionalism. Queenslanders deserve better than the calibre of those opposite. I commend the bill to the House.