




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MOUNT ISA

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ADJOURNMENT

Lottoland

 **Mr KATTER** (Mount Isa—KAP) (7.08 pm): I rise to speak in the House on an issue that has the potential to devastate some Queensland businesses, just as Uber did when it came into the market unchecked. I am speaking of online gaming and Lottoland. In recent years we have seen an explosion in online gambling companies, with advertising and marketing permeating every part of our day-to-day lives in every form of media. We cannot switch on the footy or any sporting event these days without being bombarded with ads for online betting agencies.

These online gambling companies are now expanding their reach and are pushing into the area of lotto. This is starting to severely affect our newsagencies across the state. The rise of online lottery betting, or Lottoland, is putting at risk more than 800 small businesses and over 3,500 directly employed jobs in Queensland. Lottoland sell bets on the outcome of overseas and domestic lottery draws, rather than actual tickets in the draws. As a result, they pay no lottery taxes in Queensland and do not contribute to local small business jobs and communities. They are a company based in Gibraltar, with a Northern Territory sports betting licence that operates in Queensland.

Customers are now being diverted from buying actual retail lottery tickets from their local newsagency through the heavy marketing of Lottoland. This will be used to sell other forms of online gambling to customers, which, mark my word, will drastically increase the risk of problem gambling. Every member of this House with a newsagency in their electorate should be well aware of this issue and the effect it will have.

In effect, Lottoland is the Uber of lottery gaming and it is causing similar disruptions to newsagents as the app based ridesharing service caused to taxis when it was welcomed by the government to come into the state without impunity. Now we see the devastating effects that has had on the taxi industry. The South Australian government has seen the potential danger and has stopped all gambling companies accepting bets on the outcome of a lottery. The Victorian, Tasmania, New South Wales and Western Australian governments have also announced plans to outlaw betting on lottery results. The Queensland government has instead called for federal government intervention.

This is a chance for the government to show some leadership and move to protect Queensland businesses and jobs. It is a chance to help those people in small businesses and stop those taxes going overseas. That revenue and those taxes could then be retained in Queensland. We could then preserve very precious small businesses that are holding on very precariously in today's environment. They are a very critical part of the state economy. We need action from this parliament, from this government. Rather than asking for a response from the federal government, we need this government to act—like South Australia has—assertively and to stop this from happening.