




Speech By
Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

Record of Proceedings, 2 March 2017

LIQUOR AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (3.42 pm): I rise to speak on what is essentially the repeal of the lockout laws. In preparing for what I wanted to speak about this afternoon, I had a look at *Hansard* and my speech back on 17 February 2016 when we first had this debate. I must admit that I am incredibly amazed at my insight. The things that I predicted on 17 February 2016 have come to fruition. The lockout laws were never, ever going to work. They were a complicated mess of laws which confused people. They were wrong practically as they were wrong in principle.

I was always against these lockout laws. As a father of four children who are at the age where they are going to nightclubs, of course I am concerned about their safety. However, I disagree strongly with any laws that punish the 99.9 per cent of people who do the right thing because of the 0.1 per cent of idiots who do the wrong thing. It is wrong in principle. Prohibition has never worked anywhere in the world over previous generations and decades. It has never worked and it was never going to work this time.

These laws are totally impractical. We talked about the 12 exemptions. As I said in my speech at the time, if every licensed premises in a safe night precinct were given 12 exemptions a year, of course it would lead to these organisations being open systematically and taking turns right throughout the year. We would be faced with a situation where you would walk through town and not know whether one place was under lockout tonight or whether another place was. The casino did not come under the lockout laws. It was confusing and unworkable.

When the LNP government was in power we had this under control. Some of our ideas included ID scanners—which have now been adopted by the government—extra policing, sin bins for those who are drunk and extra chaplaincy services. Our holistic approach to tackling alcohol fuelled violence was working. The only reason the government scrapped it was that it was an LNP idea.

It was inevitable that they would come back in here and make the changes that they have made. These are the people who on principle were saying that these laws were necessary and in a very sanctimonious way were criticising anybody who opposed the laws, making out that we were not concerned about alcohol fuelled violence. That absolutely got up my nose when they started saying that, because nothing could be further from the truth. Of course we want to tackle alcohol fuelled violence, but these laws were never going to work. We are always going to have idiots, unfortunately, who do the wrong thing and that is going to happen at all hours of the night. Just because the incidence of drink-driving increases between 3 am and 5 am in the morning does not mean that we ban people from driving cars. This is basically what the lockout laws were doing. It is the same principle. I do not want to speak much longer other than to put on the record that I told you so.