




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 10 October 2017

MOTION

ID Scanners

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (6.32 pm): I quote from the debate on the Safe Night Out Legislation Amendment Bill. It states—

To this end—

Mr Bleijie: Oh, here we go! Yes, I introduced it! I told you I introduced it, but you implemented it!

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, you are warned under standing order 253A. If you persist, I will take the appropriate action. I note you were warned this morning, but this is a resumption.

Mrs D'ATH: Tonight the member for Kawana has stood here and claimed that a ridiculous inconsistency exists where you can go into one pub after 10 o'clock and have to be scanned but go to another venue and because they close at midnight you do not have to be scanned—ridiculous—and that that is a loophole that we created in government. The member for Kawana as the former attorney-general introduced the legislation making sure ID scanning would operate from 10 pm. However, he moved amendments and said—

... I will propose a number of amendments to the bill, including amendments to clarify that the compulsory ID-scanning requirements will be imposed only for regulated premises on days that the regulated premises holds an approval to trade past midnight ...

'Past midnight', so it operates from 10 o'clock as compulsory ID scanning but not for those venues that do not trade past midnight. That was in 2014 by the 'Hon. JP Bleijie', the former attorney-general, during debate on his bill. Those opposite are absolute hypocrites, misleading this chamber by coming in here and saying that this was not in their legislation and this is something that this government did. They are not going out there and telling the pubs and clubs and licensed venues the truth. We absolutely oppose this motion. Where is the evidence to justify this change? Where is the evidence? Mr Speaker, have you heard tonight—

Mrs Smith interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Mount Ommaney. You are warned under standing order 253A. The minister has the call, and any other members will be warned if you are going to be unreasonable in your interjections.

Mrs D'ATH: The member for Surfers Paradise said that there have been dire impacts. Where is the evidence to support this? Have we heard that this will make communities safer by pushing it back two hours? Have we heard that? No. What we do know is that under our ID scanners as they are operating now, assaults are going down. We have heard from the member for Mackay, we have heard from the police, we have heard from OLGR staff and we are hearing from licensed venues that assaults are going down. Have we heard that venues are closing as a consequence of the ID scanners and this

is why it needs to happen? No. In fact, there have been 320 new licences in the last 12 months. Those 320 extra licences in the past 12 months mean new jobs. Assaults have gone down and we have more licensed premises. Is it because tourists are turning away from our entertainment precincts? Since 1 July this year over three million patrons have gone into venues in safe night out precincts. In the past week over 238,000 people went into a licensed venue with a scanner in safe night out precincts in this state. Assaults are going down, the number of licensed venues is going up and three million people have gone into our safe night out precincts since 1 July, yet those opposite did not put up one bit of evidence to show why that should be reversed and why we should shift that back two hours and risk the safety of people in the community.

Members should not take my word for it; they should take the word of licensed venues. On 5 October the *Gympie Times* said—

Gympie hotel and club owners have said an LNP proposal to delay ID scanners at Queensland clubs could make clubs less safe. They are their words. The article continues—

... Royal Hotel owner Stacey Lowe said the scanners make business easier for clubs, and improve the ability for patrons to enjoy a fun and safe night out.

'I've never ever had a negative thing due to the scanners,' Ms Lowe said.

...

While the LNP proposal would delay use of the scanners until midnight, Ms Lowe would prefer to see clubs use them from earlier in the night. She said the trade-off for extra business would not be worth the risk.

Club 88 owner Paul Pilkington agreed.

'We still use it as best practice,' he said.

'It helped increase safety everywhere.'

Mr Pilkington said they removed the anonymity from patrons, ensuring they held a level of responsibility for their behaviour.

This is from venues that have voluntarily chosen to use the integrated ID scanners because they know it keeps their venues safer. We have venues outside of safe night out precincts putting their hand up for this. Those on the other side are hypocrites. They wanted 8 pm; they legislated for 10 pm. Now they want midnight. They have no evidence to support what they are saying. Assaults are going down, more venues are opening and people are out enjoying themselves. I oppose this motion.

(Time expired)