




Speech By
David Crisafulli

MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

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**POLICE AND OTHER LEGISLATION (IDENTITY AND BIOMETRIC CAPABILITY)
AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (12.27 pm): I rise in support of the bill. I will leave most of the larger contribution to the member for Southern Downs who is the deputy chair of the committee and very able. I want to specifically speak regarding the extension of the liquor trading hours, something that is very important for the economy of the Gold Coast. I will start by saying that I certainly welcome the extra hour that has been put on the table. That is better than nothing, but it does fall well short. The member for Toohey has outlined his view about alcohol fuelled violence. I do not believe there is a correlation between a specific time when a bar is closed and when all hell breaks loose. I believe that if we address and tackle the problem with those who are the troublemakers we can control the vast majority of normal, sensible people who want to go about their business.

During the games the eyes of the world will be upon us. There are more than enough police resources. It is a time when we can put our best foot forward. We can show the world what a wonderful, progressive city the Gold Coast is. Above all, the economy can benefit. The shadow minister outlined quite articulately how many people will be on the Gold Coast. These people are there because they want to have a memorable experience. They are not there to cause havoc. They are not there to misbehave. They are there to enjoy themselves. Whether they are competing or supporting, when the event concludes they have the right to go out, have a drink and celebrate sensibly and not be treated like schoolchildren.

I will make a prediction. We are not going to see a situation where people from throughout the world who are quite accustomed to being treated like adults will go to bed when the government says it is time to go to bed. They are going to go back to where they are staying and the party will continue. It will continue in hotels, which are designed for people who are staying on a short-term basis. However, in the modern world of Airbnb, the party will also be taken back to places where people live day in, day out. I like to think that those people have a right to a decent night's sleep at any time, including during the games.

This is one of those situations where if you treat people like babies, if you impose a level of regulation for no good reason, always there will be a side effect. That side effect will impact the people who are going about their everyday business. There are controlled safe night precincts. People can be treated responsibly, without addressing the full force of the law on the small percentage of idiots. People who come to our state should be able to go back to their homes throughout the world and say, 'What a wonderful and progressive city! What a great place!' We do not want them to say, 'My goodness, I was treated like I was in part of the nanny state!'

I say to the government: please stop saying we are doing things because of what happened at Glasgow, whether it be the political correctness argument or whether it be this argument. We are giving an extra hour because of what happened in Glasgow? People are coming to the Gold Coast because

they want an experience in board shorts, not kilts. They are coming to the Gold Coast because they want to try Aussie cuisine, not haggis. They are coming to the Gold Coast because they want sand, not thistle. This is going to be a unique games.

An opposition member: Beer and not whiskey.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Whiskey is okay. Let people come and experience a wonderful and progressive city for all it is worth.

My final comment is about the sensible suggestion from the Queensland Hotels Association that one-off extended trading hours permits be excluded from the six per year. I think that makes a lot of sense. Those licensees absolutely should be encouraged to stay open. We do not know which nights will be busier than others, which is all the more reason why people should be encouraged to visit as many venues as possible. Let us spread people out. It will be a wonderful event. In closing, I ask the minister to please be open-minded about the option of extending the hours a little bit further. Please let the Gold Coast put forward its best foot so that the world can see what a wonderful city it is. Please do not allow people's suburbs to be turned into makeshift nightclub precincts, as the government treats the vast majority of people like fools because it cannot control a handful.