




Speech By  
**David Janetzki**

**MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH**

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

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (12.51 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Police and Other Legislation (Identity and Biometric Capability) Amendment Bill. There is one particular aspect that I wish to focus on, and that relates to the liquor licensing and security arrangements that are associated with this bill. In particular, the bill proposes to amend the Liquor Act to grant each licensee whose licensed premises is located in one of the Gold Coast safe night precincts with the authority to sell alcohol for an additional hour. The bill also grants a new power to the Commissioner for Liquor and Gaming to issue public safety restriction notices in order to minimise the harm that may arise from the additional hour of liquor trading to safeguard public safety.

It is highly anticipated that there will be close to 700,000 visitors—I think my colleague the member for Toowoomba North, the shadow minister, last night spoke about 690,000 unique visitors—to the Gold Coast during the Commonwealth Games. They will be particularly focused around the Broadbeach and Surfers Paradise safe night precincts. One of the objectives of the government's bill proposes to 'help enhance tourism and hospitality experiences'. If the Labor government have proven anything over the last couple of years it is that they have little to no idea as to how best to 'help enhance tourism and hospitality experiences'.

Let us remind ourselves of their record. They scrapped the LNP's safe night out implementation panel. They ignored industry concerns ahead of the introduction of ID scanners. There were no evidence based discussions or risk based decision-making. There were glaring inequities applied to different venues in the same safe night precincts from one side of the street to the other side of the street. They completely ignored the wishes and will of the hospitality industry. Then when ID scanners were introduced there were severe technical issues that led to massive queues outside of pubs, clubs and small bars right across Queensland. That led to queues snaking their way down streets and that ultimately feeds into the violence problem anyway because, as we know, most violence is witnessed and perpetrated in queues outside of licensed venues and not therein.

It got worse because it was not just about those issues. It had an impact on Queensland hospitality workers—generally young workers who need the flexibility of working in the hospitality industry—who lost jobs. Businesses have lost income as club and pub owners struggle to deal with the administrative and financial consequences of the ID-scanning system. Communication to the industry remains non-existent with the flow-through severe detrimental effect it has had on our vibrant night-life in Brisbane and across the Gold and Sunshine coasts.

The perfect example of this detrimental effect on our vibrant night-life in Brisbane was seen late last month with the announcement that the Zoo, Brisbane's iconic live music venue, would be closing at midnight and would be taking out their ID scanners. Effectively, that means that the Zoo will be stopped from operating after midnight by this Labor government. It is appropriate to put on the public record what the owners of the Zoo had to say. They said that Labor's ID scanners had put 'unnecessary strain on small businesses, Brisbane's night-life and live music venues'. All of this has come at a time

when we are trying to sell Brisbane to the world. We all remember Prince Frederik. We all remember the French champagne makers who were denied entry to The Gresham. There are multiple instances now of Brisbane's vibrant night-life being shut down because of the failure to have any risk based or evidence based ID-scanning regulation.

The Zoo went on to say that the ID scanner program was 'inefficient, inaccurate, expensive and useless'. The Zoo also went on to say that they take safety 'very seriously and over the past 25 years without scanners we've had no issues so we will continue this trend moving forward'. This is the problem that we are facing when you do not take a risk based or evidence based approach to ID scanners. Finally, the Zoo pleaded for people to support live music. Many of us who were university students here in Brisbane, as I was, went to the Zoo and saw Powderfinger. There is grave concern about selling Brisbane to the world and Brisbane's vibrant night-life to the world at a time when our iconic live music venue has to close its doors at midnight. There are real problems. It runs counter to what Brisbane Marketing are trying to achieve and we hear from the state government week after week about trying to drive tourism numbers into Queensland.

It is right that Queenslanders would be sceptical when under this bill the government proposes to 'help enhance tourism and hospitality experiences'. Clearly that was something that was picked up by the non-government members. In particular, I acknowledge the contribution and deputy chairmanship of the member for Southern Downs in what he had to say about the issues, together with the member for Lockyer. It was their first time on the committee, and it was great to see them put their feet under the desk and make a contribution to this bill. They raised a couple of good comments in relation to the missed opportunities of this bill—in particular, the failure to expand extended trading hours to encompass all licensed venues in the entire Gold Coast local government area. The member for Toowoomba North went through this at some length yesterday.

I cannot help but think that, when the investment is being made into CCTVs and when staff and ownership of these venues have gone through the RSAs, the RMLVs and all the training that is associated with this, obviously all licensed venues in the Gold Coast local government area would have loved a piece of the pie of the extraordinary opportunity of having 690,000 unique visitors to the Gold Coast. Those visitors are obviously coming here for sport but they are also coming here to enjoy the very best of what our night-life has to offer. It is a shame that this opportunity has not been extended across all licensed venues in the Gold Coast local government area.

**Mr Molhoek:** Everything in Southport shuts.

**Mr JANETZKI:** I take that interjection from the member for Southport—everything in Southport is shutting. The basic arithmetic is that there will be 31 licensed venues in the Broadbeach and Surfers Paradise safe night precincts, but hundreds of other venues, including the member for Southport's licensed venues, will miss out on the economic opportunities and also the cultural benefits of having visitors from 70 nations spending part of their evening at these licensed venues. There is an economic loss and a cultural loss by not considering further expanding the safe night precinct zone. I also note that the Queensland Hotels Association submission to the committee stated explicitly that it was 'unrealistic' to expect Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach safe night precincts to singularly accommodate those tourism numbers and that it would 'exacerbate safety and transport concerns'. Safety is one of the prime government reasons for driving this bill. There are ongoing and grave concerns with this.

We only need look to the case of Caleb Maraku, who threw a coward punch at a teenager on the Gold Coast during schoolies last year. He was given 12 months probation and a \$361 fine. The member for Surfers Paradise has spoken often about this. The disappointing part was that this gentleman should never ever have been in the Surfers Paradise safe night precinct. He had a court ordered ban. He was there and he offended again, yet still his name did not appear on any banned list. We know the database has been updated now, but there remain significant concerns, and we need to make sure that anyone on court ordered bans appear on the banned list.

That brings me to the media release that was issued on 10 February by the Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games and the Attorney-General. I note that the ID-scanning regime will apply during the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games.

*(Time expired)*