




Speech By
Peter Russo
MEMBER FOR TOOHEY

Record of Proceedings, 7 March 2018

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

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (12.22 pm), continuing: Prior to the adjournment last night I outlined what the bill would do in relation to a series of pieces of legislation and I do not intend to travel over old ground.

I take this opportunity on behalf of the committee to thank those individuals and organisations who made written submissions on the bill, those who briefed the committee and those who appeared at the committee's public hearings. I would particularly like to thank our committee secretariat, Hansard, the Queensland Police Service, the Department of Transport and Main Roads and the Liquor and Gaming Division of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General. The committee appreciates everyone's efforts and hard work in helping us to meet our shortened reporting deadline.

The committee's report made two recommendations. The first recommendation is that the Police and Other Legislation (Identity and Biometric Capability) Amendment Bill 2018 be passed. The second recommendation of the committee was that there be a review of the changes made by this legislation regarding biometrics and the use of identity-matching services. The committee noted evidence from submitters and witnesses regarding the potential for function creep in respect of identity-matching databases and concerns that there be appropriate review of database access and usage. Accordingly, the committee recommended that a review be conducted two years after the commencement of those provisions to evaluate the frequency, purpose and type of identity-matching services used, the users, the error rates and any incidents of service expansion.

The bill also amends the Liquor Act to automatically authorise licensees in the Broadbeach and Surfers Paradise safe night precincts to sell liquor for consumption on premises for an extra hour each night of the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games. The 2017 interim evaluation report on the operation of the tackling alcohol fuelled violence policy concluded that the widespread and systematic use of temporary late-night extended hours permits was potentially compromising the impact of the policy as it allowed licensees to effectively circumvent last drinks times and exposed the community to an increased risk of alcohol related harm. In response to these findings, the government reduced the frequency and extent to which the permits can be used to access late night liquor trading, reducing the number of permits from 12 to six in a calendar year and introducing new criteria that must be met before such a permit could be granted.

The aim of these measures was to support harm minimisation while still providing licensees the opportunity for temporary late-night liquor trading to cater for special occasions. Increasing the number of available permits would undermine the tackling alcohol fuelled violence policy and expose the community, and Queensland's reputation as a safe tourist destination, to an increased risk of harm. The shadow minister in his contribution failed to acknowledge this fact. The simple fact is that longer opening hours leads to an increase in the danger of alcohol related violence. I commend the bill to the House.