




Speech By  
**Rob Molhoek**

**MEMBER FOR SOUTHPORT**

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

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (3.52 pm): I want to address some of the matters raised in the House this afternoon. Some of the comments from the government side of the House are disgraceful. For the member for Stretton to suggest that members on this side of the House are not enthusiastic about the games is an absolute nonsense.

I want to address some of the issues raised in the bill. We just heard the member for Redcliffe saying that venues can apply for one of their six special event permits. She is right: they can apply. But I have members of the Southport Precinct Liquor Accord who have venues in the Southport precinct who have applied, and they are still waiting for the department of liquor licensing to get back to them. When they get back to them they ask questions and then they ask more questions and then they ask more questions. I would suggest to the House that the offer of special event permits for venues outside of Broadbeach and Surfers Paradise may be somewhat disingenuous, because there are venues that are applying for permits and they are not finding a very cooperative response at the other end. I would ask the government to look into that.

One venue in Southport—and I am not sure whether this one has applied or not—Club Southport, the old trades and labour club of Southport, has just spend \$3 million renovating their club in anticipation of the extra business and the opportunities that will come from the Commonwealth Games. The renovation is absolutely stellar, but are they able to trade on the same basis as Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach? No, they are not. Where is the games village? Right in the middle of Southport. Where is the aquatic centre? Right in the middle of Southport. Where is the hockey centre? It is in Southport. Every night for 12 days there will be some 10,000 people pouring out of the new Gold Coast Aquatic Centre into the Southport precinct late at night.

I was at the Australian swimming titles last week and we all poured out at about 10.30 at night. It was a magnificent event, and I have to congratulate the organisers of that event. The stadium was sensational. The atmosphere was brilliant. There was no bad seat in the House. The planning and hard work that has gone into preparing for the games has been outstanding, but how disappointing to pour out of the venue to find everything is shut. How are those 120,000-odd people who will pour out of that venue each night in Southport going to feel when everything is shut? We have the new Chinatown. Are they allowed to extend their trading hours? No, they are going to have to tell people to go to Surfers Paradise or Broadbeach.

What we have from a government that is accusing us of lacking in enthusiasm is rules and regulations. Here we are just 28 days out from the games—this should have been sorted out a year or so ago—debating trading hours for venues on the Gold Coast. I am enthusiastic because this is the biggest party—the biggest event—that Queensland will see this decade and the Gold Coast is excited about it. I have heard all the nonsense in the House that we were not keen about the games and those opposite were responsible for the games. Dare I say anyone who had been in government at the time the suggestion was made would have been enthusiastic about chasing the biggest event and it is simply a case of timing. We embraced it.

I sat in the office of the former deputy premier, Jeff Seeney, as his offside to oversee the planning of all the venues. What are we hearing from the international Commonwealth Games committee members? They are saying this is the best organised Games that they have ever seen. They have never seen a city in the world where the venues have been so well prepared. Those decisions to bring some of those venues forward, to move the temporary facilities from the Broadwater to Coomera and to build the new, magnificent Coomera Indoor Sports Centre which the northern part of the city needed were decisions that were made by our side of the House when we were in government. I find the comments of the member for Stretton that 'you don't care about the games' and 'you're not enthusiastic' absolutely insulting. I asked him a question which he did not answer, and that was how many tickets he has purchased for the games.

**Mr Brown:** He said it in his speech.

**Mr MOLHOEK:** How many did he say because I did not hear what he said?

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Order! We will not have conversations across the chamber. Direct your comments through the chair.

**Mr MOLHOEK:** I can assure the House that I will be going to an event every single day of the Commonwealth Games. I am excited about it. I have purchased tickets and have been paying them off for the last 18 months so I can take my family, friends and visitors to the city because I am very enthusiastic about the games. I will be taking some of my constituents along as well. I cannot wait to go to the Rugby 7s at Cbus stadium. I cannot wait to see a couple of nights of the swimming and the beach volleyball at the southern end of the coast. As a House, as a parliament, as a government, as an opposition, we have all worked hard for this. I am sure we are all enthusiastic about it. I am a little fed up with these nanny state rules. We have the biggest party this decade and some 1,130-odd venues on the Gold Coast are being precluded from the opportunity of being able to apply for permits, and for those few that are applying to be given such a difficult time I think is inexcusable.

I should turn to the other part of the bill, the main purpose of the bill, and that is the issue of identity-matching services. These are simple, sensible, straightforward proposals which absolutely deserve the support of both sides of the House. We are seeing the world over massive changes in technology. When you walk through Brisbane Airport now, as I have on occasions, the identity-scanning equipment is amazing. You just slide your passport into a device, it takes your photo and it lets you through. I read recently that it is getting to the point where you will not have to scan your passport because the identity-matching services and facial recognition technology are just so good. I have seen some of that technology firsthand in other parts of the world as I have travelled as well. These are sensible changes that are being proposed, and that is why the opposition is also supporting these changes.

I want to talk about some of the great venues in Southport because this is a chance to give Southport a bit of a plug ahead of the games. I mention the evolution of Chinatown in the core of the Southport business precinct. The declaration of the PDA that was made by the previous LNP government allowed for greater development rights in Southport, and it is bearing fruit. We now see some 40,000 people working in the electorate of Southport every day. It is exciting to see the progress that has been made and the growth that is happening.

I am just disappointed that, as we come into the games, people will not get the opportunity to go out and make the most of those evenings. We will be standing at the light rail station saying to them, 'Sorry but there's no point going back that way towards Helensvale because there's nothing's open, and there's no point going the other way down the street into Southport. If you want to get on the light rail, you can go to Surfers or Broadbeach and you might find they have what you're looking for.'

I want to raise one final point in relation to an email I received from a concerned constituent. This is an important point to make because it is my job to stand up for Southport. As the train approaches Helensvale station, an announcement is made which simply says that those travellers wanting to get off the train can catch the tram to Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach but there is no mention of Southport. The suggestion in the email was that this was a deliberate ploy by the government's side of the House. I did write back to them to say that I was sure it was just an unintended omission. I have raised this with G:link which has subsequently raised it with the department of transport, and I have been assured that it will be fixed. I raise it in the House today and I sincerely hope that by the time the games start the announcement will say that the train can be caught to Southport, Surfers or Broadbeach.