




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH

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ADJOURNMENT

Community Clubs

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (6.00 pm): Tonight I rise to speak in support of our community clubs right across Queensland, community clubs that employ 22,000 people around Queensland, deliver over \$2 billion to the Queensland economy and offer over \$850 million through social distributions right throughout our small and larger regional communities in Queensland. We know that they face significant challenges, whether it be from casinos or enhanced competition from restaurants, bars and pubs. All that they are looking for is a level playing field.

Tonight the issue I would like to raise is community clubs that are captured under safe night precincts in Queensland. There are two clubs in particular that I wish to raise tonight, the Cowboys Leagues Club in Townsville which is caught in a safe night precinct and a club in Toowoomba, the Toowoomba Sports Club, an institution in our city, that is captured in our safe night precinct in Toowoomba.

We are aware that currently there is a review of the efficiency of safe night precincts and ID scanning. That review was due to be finalised mid last year. Now we are not quite sure when it is coming back. I am hoping it is coming back shortly. What we are seeing is significant disadvantage to these community clubs that are caught in safe night precincts. What we see in the Toowoomba Sports Club is most alarming. It is costing the Toowoomba Sports Club \$20,000 per annum in labour costs to operate ID scanners and another \$6,000 for the network system. There is a loss of revenue as members are turned away because of the operation of the ID scanning laws in this safe night precinct. The car park in the Toowoomba Sports Club is unworkable after 10 o'clock because of the operation of the ID scanners. Employment is down. Revenue is down.

Once upon a time the Toowoomba Sports Club used to employ three apprentices in the kitchen and two student tradespeople. They are no longer being employed. We are seeing total staff numbers at Toowoomba Sports Club drop from 50 to 42. Expansion plans have been thrown into disarray and, of course, the local sporting clubs—Souths, Valleys, Brothers, North Toowoomba Hockey Club and Toowoomba Basketball Association—all stand to suffer because of the lack of profit coming out of this community club because of the operation of these ID scanners and the safe night precinct.

I call on the Attorney-General to sit down with Clubs Queensland, general manager Karen Evans who runs the Toowoomba Sports Club so brilliantly and Clint Williams at the Cowboys Leagues Club and talk about the impact of the duplication and the discrepancies in the law.