




Speech By  
**Christopher Whiting**

**MEMBER FOR BANCROFT**

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### **LIQUOR (ARTISAN LIQUOR) AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (3.46 pm): I rise to speak to the Liquor (Artisan Liquor) Amendment Bill. It is a pleasure to talk to this bill. I have travelled with the industry for some years on this journey. I have always said to them that they work with a science; it is a science for everyday working Queensland men and women. We can also have a good conversation about science with Queenslanders if we talk about the processes of brewing and distilling because everyone knows a bit about it. Everyone is interested and nearly all Queenslanders have some experience or expertise in brewing. As I say to people in the industry, they are science and technology educators for ordinary Queenslanders.

The bill recognises one of the greatest and newest manufacturing industries in Queensland. We have heard how they employ about 1,800 people throughout the state and generate \$62 million annually for the Queensland economy. We found it is very well organised and it has many enthusiastic leaders and champions.

Importantly, as I always like to say, craft brewing and distilling is a huge part of the Queensland events and tourism destinations economy. For example, they are an integral part of food trails festivals, regional weekend visits and the like. I also point out that they are a hugely important part of community life in many Queensland communities. For example, they provide new places for people to meet, small places for people to meet, opportunities for local networking and often form important parts of the local chambers of commerce as well.

I want to pay tribute to the Queensland champions of the craft brewing and distilling industry whom I have met over the last few years as a committee chair. I have been happy to back them wherever I can in their journey towards this bill. I will mention some I have met. I will start with Adam Gibb, the founder and head brewer from White Brick Brewing, formerly at North Lakes. I met him before he started getting his establishment going. He created a real community centre. We often held events there. He was always a great host. It was a great place for the community to come together.

Unfortunately, White Brick Brewing did not survive COVID-19. As we heard, there was a 67 per cent drop in sales during COVID-19. I add that I think he was dealt a cruel blow by his landlord. It is a shame that not everyone in our community helped our community, especially our businesses, during COVID-19. I count him as a true friend. He is still in the industry, and I look forward to seeing another iteration of White Brick Brewing in the years to come.

I also pay tribute to Matt Kirkegaard, or 'BeerMatt' as he appears on Google. He is a beer educator and writer, someone unique in Queensland. He showed me how you can actually match beer and food. It was a revelation. It is a wonderful match made in heaven.

**Mr Harper** interjected.

**Mr WHITING:** Yes. If you get a chance to go to one of his events, member for Thuringowa, I urge you to take it up. He is a true ambassador for these Queensland businesses. I also pay tribute to Russell Steele, who works in the regulatory field for brewers and distillers. He is certainly a fierce advocate for the industry and I always listen to him. One day I ran into him in Bunnings and we had a long chat. I

also pay tribute to David Kitchen, head of Ballistic Beer. Once again, he is a true voice and champion for his industry. He runs a great establishment. I wish him all the best as Ballistic Beer's footprint expands throughout the state.

I also welcome the elements of the bill that others have spoken about today. I mention the new licence category, which has been pursued for many years. I agree with some of the previous speakers that it will increase market share for these businesses as well as increase Queensland jobs. There is a change as to how they can operate at promotional events. There are changes involving the selling and retailing of other artisan products. There is a great camaraderie amongst the industry even though they are rivals. There is the waiving or lowering of fees. I especially welcome the fine work of BrewLab. This represents a more than \$1 million investment by the Palaszczuk Labor government to help develop the products and the workers in this industry for many years to come.

I also welcome the signal that there will be ongoing work and consultation between the department and the industry to further improve regulations over the years. I would certainly welcome that and encourage both sides to keep improving this marvellous industry. I pay tribute to and thank the ministers involved—Attorney-General Fentiman and Minister Butcher—and also Treasurer Cameron Dick, who played his part in helping us get to where we are today. I commend the bill to the House.