




Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Record of Proceedings, 9 March 2021

LIQUOR (ARTISAN LIQUOR) AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (3.27 pm): ‘Down under in the scrub stands the Ettamogah Pub’. That was a song my family sang in the late 1980s when my uncle opened the Ettamogah Pub on the Sunshine Coast. Mr Deputy Speaker, I am happy to sing the rest for you in private at a show later. Tickets will be available online. All members are cordially invited. It is five bucks a show.

In the late 1980s my family moved from New South Wales. My Uncle Cooper started, owned and operated the Ettamogah Pub on the Sunshine Coast. We came from Albury, where he built the first Ettamogah Pub. My Uncle Cooper and Auntie Sonya loved the crooked pub with the car on top as depicted by the artist Ken Maynard in the old *Australasian Post* magazine, so they decided to build it. They built the first Ettamogah Pub in Albury and in the late 1980s we moved to Queensland and built the Ettamogah Pub up here, so I have always been in the pub industry.

I have to say that, if you were at the Ettamogah Pub when it opened in 1989 on the Sunshine Coast drinking Powers, XXXX or Castlemaine, you could imagine the jokes around the bar at the thought that they would be drinking rhubarb craft beers in 2021. I think it was the Minister for Main Roads who was telling me in the Business Committee yesterday that one of the breweries in his own electorate has a chocolate flavoured craft beer. You could imagine the men and women in the Ettamogah Pub in 1989 thinking that we would now be drinking chocolate flavoured beer—or, as the member for Glass House said, nitro mulberry stout, which they brew at Your Mates in my electorate of Kawana.

Here we are in 2021 and we have this great industry in the craft brewing and artisan land. It is very good to be able to talk positively about this industry. We would have liked to have seen legislation earlier, and the member for Glass House referenced some of the issues and how long this has been going on. The *Courier-Mail* had an article on 25 August 2020 with the headline ‘Independent brewers are frothing over a lack of legislation to give them better market access’. The industry was saying way back in 2020 that this legislation should have been passed and that they had no idea when it was going to be passed. Anyway, here we are in March 2021 debating that legislation.

I support the industry. I recall when I was the attorney-general responsible for liquor licensing that the LNP government set out to reduce red tape. We were not setting up a binge-drinking culture, as members have indicated today, even in the craft beer industry; it was about regulation and red tape for business. The reality is that craft brewers, distillers, artisan manufacturers and those in our hospitality and liquor industry are businesses and a lot of them are small businesses. They struggle with red tape just like every other business in Queensland. I can recall we moved legislation in this chamber so that school fetes and shows would not have to apply for community liquor permits, which saved them \$57 per application.

Mr Powell: That was the Monto amendment, wasn't it?

Mr BLEIJIE: Yes, the Monto amendment. That saved them the \$57 community liquor permit application and allowed show societies to get on with the job of fundraising—and guess what? Many years later the concerns that people had at the time that show societies and our local school fetes would

have alcohol running rampant in them have not eventuated. We knew it would not but it was good to get rid of the liquor red tape with respect to that. I can also remember that I moved legislation to allow two standard drinks in nursing homes. That went quite well in the nursing homes. We allowed retirement villages a little more flexibility with how they manage the affairs in their community centres and their happy hours, which they continue to enjoy.

We had this legislative framework. Sometimes it does concern members of parliament—particularly on the Liberal National Party side—when we debate legislation which is introducing regulation, because we should be trying to get rid of regulation or red tape, but in this situation it is needed. I note the comments from members saying that they are supportive of a lot of the regulation in the craft beer industry and they would like to see further support in the future. Talking about support, it does concern me that there are large multinational companies getting millions of dollars in government grants yet our small business craft brewery operators cannot get anything from the state government for support, particularly during COVID. I know my local breweries on the Sunshine Coast have had that. They see a big multinational in Brisbane getting millions of dollars in state government support but they are not able to access state government support.

I want to give a shout-out to two breweries in Kawana. I know the member for Caloundra just mentioned one, but he failed to mention that the Moffat Beach Brewing Co. have just moved to Kawana to a bigger premises on Caloundra Road. They have seen the light but they have still kept their Moffat Beach brewery and they are also now on Caloundra Road. I congratulate Matt and Sharynne on that expansion. They now employ 30 staff with their two breweries. They have won awards. They have the Moffat mango, which is one of their award-winning brews. As I said, they employ 30 staff. They have local food suppliers that come in, including Pizza Coppola recently. These are local businesses giving it a go, having a crack, which I love to see. Again, to Matt and Sharynne, thank you for expanding your operations on the Sunshine Coast into the Kawana electorate. I wish you success. We also have Your Mates Brewing, which the member for Glass House noted he spent a little time at.

Mr Powell: A little too long.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take that interjection. It was a bit too long, hey? Keep spending money in Kawana. You are always welcome and bring your mates—of course, that is why you bring your mates to Your Mates! Matty Hepburn and Christen McGarry started that dream back on what they say was an old blue futon over a couple of cold beers, and now they have a wonderful brewery in Kawana with Your Mates. It is also award winning. They won a top-five beer in Australia with Your Mates Larry. That is a great craft beer and they are expanding.

It is also great to see local businesses in our hospitality industry and the pub industry being supportive by putting these craft beers into the pubs. I note Suncoast Hotels and Scotty Armstrong and the team have put Your Mates Larry in. I know it is the same at NightQuarter, where I recently featured as Elvis Presley with my wife. Members can see it on YouTube. It has had over 50,000 views on social media—again, I will be selling tickets for that later—with 49,000 of those being me and my wife watching the dance. NightQuarter have also got Your Mates Larry. It is great to see our local hospitality industry supporting locals that give it a go and have a crack. They are putting these craft beers in their shops for all on the Sunshine Coast to enjoy. I congratulate Your Mates and Moffat Beach Brewing Co. Of course, Your Mates were on *Shark Tank* in 2015. They actually rejected the offer, and now look at them! They are expanding. They are doing all of their brewing in Kawana. It is great to see them going from strength to strength.

As I said, we want to have small businesses supported more on the Sunshine Coast. We have situations where it is easy for the state government to look at the international companies because they have the lobbyists and all the groups to go to the government for money, but the state needs to be helping small businesses like Your Mates and Moffat Beach Brewing Co. because these people are small businesses on the Sunshine Coast employing Sunshine Coast locals. As I said, Moffat Beach Brewing Co. has over 30 employees and they have just expanded into two operations on the Sunshine Coast.

I support the legislation. I also support commentary with respect to having a watching brief on this in the future, seeing where we can further support our small businesses in the artisan market and the craft beer industry. They are doing amazing things on the Sunshine Coast. I do not want to detract from the other brewers on the Sunshine Coast, because I know my colleagues have some wonderful craft brewers in their electorates, but I wanted to focus on the two standouts in the Kawana electorate—the Moffat Beach Brewing Co. and Your Mates. They are doing wonderful things and I wish them all the best. Keep supporting those local business.