




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

Record of Proceedings, 9 March 2021

LIQUOR (ARTISAN LIQUOR) AMENDMENT BILL

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (5.20 pm): With two very innovative inner city microbreweries in my electorate, I rise to very strongly support the bill. The bill amends the Liquor Act 1992 to create a new commercial artisan liquor producer licence to support independently owned artisan distilling and craft beer business which are a booming industry and add much to our state. Importantly, the bill also provides measures to minimise the risk of alcohol related harm consistent with the government's commitment to tackling alcohol fuelled violence. Across Queensland there are approximately 90 independent craft breweries employing more than 1,700 Queenslanders and pumping an estimated \$62 million into our economy each year. Two of those breweries are in my electorate of Miller being Helios and Slipstream, both of them in Yeerongpilly.

Mr Butcher interjected.

Mr BAILEY: Indeed. The member for Gladstone has been to both of them. Very well done. These two breweries, both established in 2017, are fantastic local businesses employing Queenslanders, putting money back into the local economy and sourcing plenty of their building supplies from local industries as well. I had the opportunity to drop in to Helios Brewing recently and I spoke again with the owner, Scott Shomer, who is also a former environmental engineer. He told me how they are using renewable energy in their brewing processes to keep their emissions and costs down as well as making excellent and quite exotic beer. Using Queensland's fantastic climate, they combine solar PV with state-of-the-art solar water heating to produce their beer. That means that their energy costs are one-tenth of other similar sized breweries and they believe they are one of the least emission-intensive breweries in the country.

We also spoke about how the business adapted during COVID, operating as a drive-through bottle shop to maintain social distancing with very strong support from the local community who like to buy local. I am proud to be part of a government that has supported local businesses like Helios and Slipstream over the past 12 months. Throughout the pandemic the Palaszczuk Labor government has provided unprecedented support for businesses, including \$1.3 billion in payroll tax relief, a billion dollars in concessional loans, \$200 million in grants and \$100 million in power rebates. As we continue to lead the economic recovery from COVID-19 in Queensland, we will continue to support Queensland businesses.

This legislation will establish a new licence for breweries like Helios and Slipstream. Currently, many independent breweries operate under a producer/wholesaler licence and some seek a second liquor licence to meet their business needs, which can be costly to them. Under the new scheme, independent brewers and artisan distillers will be able to sell unlimited takeaways of their own liquor, except online orders, and sell their liquor wholesale. They will also be able to sell any Queensland artisan liquor for on-premises consumption. This legislation is all about supporting innovative Queensland businesses and industry because that is what we do on this side of the House.

I certainly recommend a visit to Slipstream. They have recently expanded and taken over the panel shop at the front. They have a fantastic outside beer garden that has expanded considerably and the locals have well and truly found it. I look forward to their continued success in Yeerongpilly.

We have kept the Queensland economy safe by not listening to those opposite in terms of borders and by protecting Queensland businesses. It is because we took that expert health advice and managed the health response in a world-leading way that we have been able to focus on our economic recovery. We support artisan brewers. I commend the bill to the House.