




Speech By
Mark Boothman

MEMBER FOR THEODORE

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LIQUOR (ARTISAN LIQUOR) AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (5.04 pm): I too rise to make a contribution to the Liquor (Artisan Liquor) Amendment Bill—Legal Affairs and Safety Committee report No. 4 for the 57th Parliament—a great piece of legislation that I do certainly fully support. As my electorate is on the Gold Coast a lot my constituents work in the tourism industry. This is something we welcome because it gives employment opportunities in this industry to up-and-coming individuals and diversifies the tourism industry on the Gold Coast.

I recently had a discussion with a constituent who was a former student at one of my schools. He has been dabbling in this area, and this bill is certainly welcomed by him because he has a true passion in developing new flavours of beer et cetera, which I think is a credit to him. Whilst he is certainly not in a position to manufacture, he will be looking into those areas in the future and I wish him all the best with his future endeavours. The craft brewing industry is certainly a fast growing part of the Queensland economy. The old Albert electorate encompassed the Power's brewery up at Yatala which I visited many times.

Mr Crandon: It's in the Coomera electorate now.

Mr BOOTHMAN: Yes, it is in the Coomera electorate. It is a massive manufacturing facility that, under the previous legislation, would make it very difficult for any of these craft brewers to compete with. They manufacture a wide range of beer up there including Peroni, Carlton Midstrength and quite a few other brands. I remember that back in my youth my neighbours and I used to drink a lot of Carlton Cold. I must say that was not the best product out there—no disrespect to Carlton Cold and Victorians. Our craft brewers here in Queensland produce a far better and more palatable product. It would be good if we could support other small businesses such as IGAs and mix breweries and their unique tastes with locally produced food, therefore supporting local farmers and other industries. There is nothing better than an avocado and salmon salad—

An opposition member: You have to have avocado!

Mr BOOTHMAN: Yes, I had to put avocado in there because avocado is a very important food for us, it is a good industry and we should be supporting the avocado industry. But I digress. It is very important to put these different foods and craft breweries together to enhance the stay of tourists who come to the Gold Coast region. This will drive research and development and encourage brewers to get out there and experiment and develop new and unique tastes and products. I certainly support this legislation. It is a long time coming.

I want to take up the comments of the member for Toowoomba North in relation to excessive drinking. I must say that is one of my concerns, but these brewers seem to have a unique clientele in their bars and it does not seem to be an issue in these areas. Excessive drinking is a major problem in our society. My wife is Japanese and, although I have not been to Japan for quite a few years, I have visited on a few occasions. It is interesting to see the way the Japanese treat alcohol compared to Australians. For instance, at a train station you can buy beer and spirits from a vending machine, yet I

did not see a single individual walking around a train station intoxicated. It just shows you the cultural differences between the two countries. We need to control our drinking in Australia because of the health side-effects.

I wholeheartedly support this bill. It will help diversify the tourism industry on the Gold Coast. I hope that the local theme parks will also jump on board to support the local breweries by giving these small businesses a go through selling their products.

It would also be lovely if we could get another NightQuarter for the Gold Coast. A great location which I have mentioned to them is the Dreamworld car park. It could certainly spruce up the life of the Dreamworld car park for night events, providing a massive venue for the different breweries, local farmers and small producers from the Gold Coast hinterland and the Scenic Rim to showcase their products.

I will leave my comments at that. I thank the current minister and the previous minister, the member for Gladstone, for their work on this bill. This is a good bill and it will help my local small businesses. It will also develop this industry and give young people looking to enter this industry an opportunity to expand their horizons.