




Speech By  
**Ray Stevens**

**MEMBER FOR MERMAID BEACH**

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Record of Proceedings, 9 March 2021

**LIQUOR (ARTISAN LIQUOR) AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (4.21 pm): It gives me great pleasure to rise to speak to this bill, which is very similar to a bill that was introduced to the House prior to the election of 2020. We had a very hard year in 2020 with the coronavirus and the COVID restrictions. Debating the bill now before the House is a very positive step forward for our boutique and artisan brewers. I am very supportive of the bill before the House.

There is no doubt that over a long time the people involved in the boutique and artisan brewing industry have had difficulties sorting themselves out from the general supplier of liquor to the community. To see the industry regulated in this way—and I think there will be a maximum of 450,000 litres of production—is a positive thing for the community. The industry is part of a new social movement with brewery visits and distillery visits now a big part of the tourism industry, which needs all the help that it can get at the current time. I reflect on the opening of the Burleigh Brewing Company, which was co-founded by Peta Harding and recognised as one of the top operators on the Gold Coast. Whilst I do not imbibe too much of their particular product as it is not my cup of tea, it is a very popular spot on the Gold Coast and attracts lots of tourism buses. I think it is going very well as a business in Burleigh.

Closer to home, at the Bundaberg Region Promotion Night held at Parliament House a very good distiller of gin, Kalki Moon, was exhibiting their products. I approached them to buy one of their bottles of gin, which is a very good product. I thought I was doing the right thing. They said, 'Sorry, we can't do it. The regulations are against us.' The Kalki Moon gin is an excellent gin. I note that the Speaker has chosen Kalki Moon to produce the Speaker's Gin, which we can buy here at parliament. I thoroughly recommend it as a good drop to members who may have an occasion to celebrate with someone who is keen on that spirit. In the Bundaberg/Bargara area, Kalki Moon Distilling and Brewing Company is a popular tourist attraction. If I go back that way I will make a visit or two to Kalki Moon. It is amazing how the gin industry has grown over the past few years with distilleries popping up left, right and centre. You only have to go to Dan Murphy's to see that.

This bill circumvents the concerns that the operators represented by the Queensland Hotels Association have with the competition coming from artisan liquor producers and the fear that they might take away some of their business. The legislation outlines parameters of 400 to 450,000 litres as the limit for production, which I think protects the interests of hotel and bottle shop operators while giving further strength to the growing tourism industry relating to artisan distilleries and breweries. This was highlighted to me a couple of years ago when I was visited in my office by a distiller who had opened his business in the beautiful electorate of Mermaid Beach. He had copped a \$6,000 fine from the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation for a minor transgression of the fine print around what he could and could not do as a distiller.

The business is Granddad Jack's, which is located in the Miami area of the beautiful electorate of Mermaid Beach. A Channel 9 program, *My Way*, did a feature on Granddad Jack's. Operator Dave Ridden and his son put their savings into that wonderful distillery, which is quite a large attraction. Dave Ridden has had great input into this legislation as it has progressed. I am told that Dave Ridden's

Granddad Jack's product—and I am sure the Attorney-General would be very impressed—makes an excellent espresso martini. I will table that document for the benefit of the Attorney-General. Granddad Jack's is now a household name in the distilling industry. They are going from strength to strength in the tourism industry following the Channel 9 program, which highlighted the great products that they make in the fabulous electorate of Mermaid Beach.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, containing images depicting Granddad Jack's coffee liqueur and contact details [281](#).

There is another issue that I would like to highlight in relation to this legislation and I acknowledge the assistance of the Attorney-General in this matter. I was hoping to move an amendment to the legislation to overcome a problem that was brought to my attention by Terri Lew who runs a wonderful gallery at 19 Karen Avenue in the electorate of Mermaid Beach. The OLGR turned up on her doorstep one day and said that she could not serve complimentary wine at an art show. The former attorney-general and her then chief of staff, the current member for Stafford, were assisting me in trying to change that legislation. As that had not occurred I thought it was appropriate that we try to amend the situation through this bill, just as our Attorney-General did by allowing flower shops and hairdressers to serve complimentary wine without getting into trouble with the OLGR. I was hoping that I could move an amendment to this bill, but that did not occur.

The gallery does a wonderful job showcasing contemporary artists. Terri Lew does a fabulous job promoting young artists in the electorate. The Attorney-General has assisted through the OLGR. Although we have been a bit short on time with this bill, the Attorney-General has assured me that at some future stage an amendment will be moved so that serving complimentary wine at an art show or art gallery will be a non-prosecutable offence. I look forward to that amendment coming forward in another piece of legislation.

I cannot help but support the wonderful piece of small business legislation that is before the House. It is timely that we enable people to promote their products whenever they can and to support the tourism industry. They are all good small business operators. I am sure that this legislation will give them improved incentive to expand upon their businesses by giving them certainty. I will certainly be supporting this bill in the House.