




Speech By
Patrick Weir

MEMBER FOR CONDAMINE

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CASINO CONTROL AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (4.50 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to the debate on the Casino Control and Other Legislation Amendment Bill.

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Pause the clock. Members, we have work to do. I have called the member for Condamine and he deserves to be heard. Members on my right, including you, member for Thuringowa, please cease your interjections.

Mr WEIR: The Casino Control and Other Legislation Amendment Bill was introduced into this House on 26 May 2022. The original bill drew on the recommendations of the Finkelstein inquiry. The intentions of the bill were to strengthen casino integrity and modernise gambling legislation, introduce a framework for wagering on simulated events, extend New Year's Eve gaming hours and introduce a cross-border regulation scheme for charitable fundraising. As we have heard, the proposed legislation that is now before the House has altered dramatically in line with some of the recommendations from the Gotterson report. There are 21 pages containing 20 amendments which is a significant alteration. As we have heard, they are being proposed without going through the committee process. Many times in this House I have spoken about the committee process being incredibly important for the scrutiny of legislation before this House. It is the only chance the public has to have input into the formation of policy or to identify any areas that they are particularly concerned about.

As the member for Toowoomba North stated, in the area that we come from there is not a casino. Other towns in Queensland that are roughly the same size as Toowoomba—such as Cairns or Townsville—do have casinos. It is probably fast approaching a stage where Toowoomba would put serious consideration towards a casino. I know there has been some preliminary work done by some in that space. A casino can be somewhat controversial when it is first proposed into a community and that is because the community want to know that it is not going to have a harmful effect on their community. That is why the legislation before us needs to be held to account. Unfortunately casinos can attract a crowd which is not altogether suitable for a community and we can end up with money laundering, criminal activity and serious increases in gambling by those who have a weakness towards it.

While the Gotterson report made a number of recommendations, it certainly did not have the scope that we would have liked to have seen. This bill should have gone back to the committee so that all issues could have been scrutinised. It came up in the Gotterson report that cashless gambling be implemented for gambling transactions of \$1,000 or less.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Member for Condamine, could you resume your seat. It being 4.55 pm, under the provisions of the business program agreed to by the House, I call the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice to reply to the second reading debate.

