



Speech By
Jann Stuckey

MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN

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**POLICE AND OTHER LEGISLATION (IDENTITY AND BIOMETRIC CAPABILITY)
AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (2.25 pm): The Police and Other Legislation (Identity and Biometric Capability) Amendment Bill 2018 was introduced by the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services on 15 February, which was the first full sitting day of the new 56th Parliament. The committee report was due to be tabled on Friday, 2 March. I note the recommendation that the bill be passed as well as the recommendation that there will be a review of the changes made by this legislation two years after the bill commences.

The objectives, as we have heard, of this bill are: to provide a legislative framework to facilitate Queensland's participation in the identity-matching services; to remove the requirement to obtain an access approval order for Queensland police to access Queensland driver's licence digital images for non-transport related offences; to remove the requirement for the Department of Transport and Main Roads to report annually to parliament via the minister on access to Queensland's driver's licence digital images; to overcome the current limitations in the Criminal Code in inadequately addressing the threat of homemade explosives; and to provide for extended liquor trading arrangements for the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

This bill amends a number of acts but primarily follows through on the Commonwealth's Intergovernmental Agreement on Identity Matching Services, which commits Queensland to further boost the support available to our state and national police and security agencies by agreeing to establish a national facial biometric-matching capability. This capability will be delivered through the implementation of the identity-matching services, which cover face verification and face identification services and the one person, one licence service. These services will be available through a central hub or exchange hosted by the Commonwealth and linked to the systems of participating agencies. In order to enable this legislation, a number of acts need to be amended, and components of the identity-matching services will be in use during the 2018 Commonwealth Games. In addition, a range of privacy safeguards will be put in place.

We can be thankful that the raft of legislation coming forward in recent years relating to terrorism has not had to be used yet. However, the threat of terror on Australian soil remains probable, and tougher laws and protections for civilians and visitors are warranted. As with many bills of this nature, the potential breaching of some fundamental legislative principles has been raised, but the protection and safeguarding of civilians is paramount in situations such as these.

As the minister stated in his introductory speech, this bill also includes amendments to the Liquor Act 1992 to provide an extra hour of liquor trading during the 2018 Commonwealth Games in the Gold Coast safe night precincts of Broadbeach and Surfers Paradise. It also amends the Liquor Act to waive the application fee for a requested temporary late-night extended hours permit during the games by safe night precinct licensees, or SNPs.

It is these amendments that are of special interest to businesses in the Currumbin electorate. Promoter and former nightclub owner Billy Cross raised the issue of extended trading times during the games in an article in late 2016. I supported his views and called for special games times. The Attorney, the honourable member for Redcliffe, said at that time there were 'no plans to relax the current regulations during the games'. She hoped the event would have a special focus on families, which of course we all do. The Palaszczuk government, however, had plenty of time to think about it but did nothing. Moving forward to 2018, in his introductory speech the minister said—

In particular, the Palaszczuk government recognises that the Commonwealth Games presents a significant opportunity for restaurants, pubs, clubs, bars and nightclubs to showcase their exceptional hospitality to visitors from around the world.

It seems this hospitality is limited and does not extend to Coolangatta. It only applies to SNPs in Broadbeach and Surfers Paradise, thereby denying Coolangatta an extra hour of trading even though volleyball events finish at 10.30 pm. Our supermarkets can open for 24 hours; why are our licensed venues being punished? In June 2017 on behalf of the Coolangatta Liquor Accord, which represents local licensees, I asked a question on notice about the process required for the Coolangatta entertainment sector being granted SNP status. The reply stated that it was not the intention of government to review precinct boundaries or consider increasing or reducing the number of precincts before a full evaluation of its tackling alcohol fuelled violence laws and policies is completed in 2018. As we all know, it is now 2018.

I table a submission from Commercial Licensing Specialists, who are acting on behalf of Coolangatta Liquor Accord. This submission was sent at 12.36 pm on Tuesday, 27 February, the day after submissions closed.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 27 February 2018, from Commercial Licencing Specialists to the member for Toohey and Chair of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, Mr Peter Russo MP, regarding the Police and Other Legislation (Identity and Biometric Capability) Amendment Bill 2018 [272](#).

This submission to the committee requested that the 70 plus licensed venues in Coolangatta and Currumbin be included in the one-hour licence extension during the games. Coolangatta Liquor Accord is still keen to be designated an SNP, but they are not at present and therefore they are not eligible.

I am known to be a stickler for not accepting late submissions unless there are special circumstances or as agreed with the committee prior but, given the very short time frame and the fact that the submitter was not on the invitee list, I believe it is important for it to be tabled here in the parliament. Submissions for this bill closed on Monday, 26 February and cannot have been open for too long—maybe four days, and perhaps two of those were over a weekend—so there was not much time at all for interested parties to prepare and put in submissions.

This is a new bill and, given the effect these amendments to the Liquor Act will have on so many small and medium sized businesses, surely more consideration could have been given to our southern region. After all, Currumbin is hosting three separate sporting events. The volleyball in Coolangatta is ticketed, but the road cycling and walking events are not. This means that there is a park-and-ride at Tugun for the volleyball but none for Currumbin. Approximately 3,000 people will use the park-and-ride which will service Coolangatta every day. They will have to be out before each session, so that is morning, afternoon and evening sessions. This means that Coolangatta traders are missing out on 3,000 sales, as visitors cannot stay for lunch or dinner after their sessions.

It is little wonder that some are feeling angry and discriminated against and why my office staff are being bombarded with frustrated residents. Just as we felt we were finally getting some proper information via pop-up stalls and a visible games presence, it seems that we are also being cut out of the extra trading hours as outlined in this bill. I ask the minister to consider the request from the Coolangatta Liquor Accord. As mentioned earlier, the minister said—

Additionally, the bill amends the Liquor Act to waive the application fee for temporary late-night extended hours permits sought by Gold Coast safe-night precinct licensees on days during the Commonwealth Games. This will facilitate licensees in being able to apply to serve liquor to 5 am, to cater for increased tourism ...

The minister showed either his ignorance or his dislike for the southern Gold Coast with this language, which would have people think that night-life only occurs at Broadbeach or Surfers Paradise. Perhaps it is this attitude that has the people of my electorate feeling as though they are second-class citizens. There are 70 or so venues in Coolangatta, yet the minister denies us that status. They really do not get small business and do not care how much they hurt them.

The statement of reservation from non-government members highlights missed opportunities and were echoed by the Queensland Hotels Association, which made some suggestions on behalf of their members. These include widening the automatic one-hour extension to the broader Gold Coast region

and not subtracting days used during the Commonwealth Games from the six-day extended permit allocation. Given these were reduced from 12 by the Palaszczuk government, some establishments will have used some of their six already since New Year. This is hardly a gain.

In closing, I am sick and tired of being labelled a nitpicker regarding the games. I have invested more in the games than most here in this House, and I dearly want them to succeed. However, my first duty is to the residents of Currumbin and not salaried Commonwealth Games officials or the ego-driven minister, who simply likes to turn up at events and announcements. It is Currumbin residents whom I serve, and if they have issues I will do my utmost to get answers for them. Do not tell us to 'suck it up' while you have your noses in the trough.

Goldoc and this government have failed to inform people in a timely manner and treated them as ignorant fools, only telling them what they want and drip-feeding them on a need-to-know basis. People deserve time to make alternative arrangements, and it is more time than this regime has allowed. This bill has some important safety amendments within its provisions that will add another layer of protection for civilians and supply our law enforcers with more tools—

(Time expired)