




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MOGGILL

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

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (2.04 pm): I rise today to contribute to the debate on the Police and Other Legislation (Identity and Biometric Capability) Amendment Bill 2018. The Liberal National Party opposition does not oppose this bill. It is of vital importance that Queensland hosts a safe Commonwealth Games protecting not only our athletes but also the tens of thousands of visitors who will converge on the Gold Coast on 4 April 2018—that is, of course, assuming they will be able to utilise the M1 in a timely manner or be able to catch a train, both of which are extremely problematic under the Palaszczuk Labor government.

An opposition member interjected.

Dr ROWAN: I take that interjection. This bill provides the legislative framework to facilitate Queensland's participation in identity-matching services. It removes the requirement to obtain an access approval order for Queensland police to access Queensland driver's licence digital images for non-transport related offences.

The bill also removes 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. Importantly, it overcomes the current limitations in the Criminal Code to adequately address the threat of homemade explosives and it provides for extended liquor trading arrangements for the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

In April 2015 the Council of Australian Governments agreed to implement a recommendation from the *Martin Place siege: joint Commonwealth-New South Wales review* for government agencies which issue documents relied upon as primary evidence of identity, to strengthen name based identity-checking processes and explore greater use of biometrics including via identity-matching services through the national facial biometric-matching capability process. The national driver's licence facial recognition system has been developed as part of the IMS to enable cross-jurisdictional matching of driver's licence images. Drivers' licences are the most widely used identity document in Australia, and thus their inclusion in the IMS is at the core of its capability.

On 5 October 2017 at the special meeting of COAG on counterterrorism, the Premier, in conjunction with all other first ministers, agreed to establish the IMS and signed the Intergovernmental Agreement on Identity Matching Services. The intergovernmental agreement is an agreement to share and match identity information to prevent identity crime and promote law enforcement, national security, road safety, community safety and identity assurance outcomes.

Under the intergovernmental agreement, each jurisdiction has agreed to make necessary legislative amendments to facilitate the collection, use and disclosure of facial images and associated identity information between participating entities. The main sources of information include driver's licence images and associated data held by states and passport and immigration images held by the Commonwealth. Given the volume and growing importance of this information for counterterrorism

purposes and law enforcement, the IMS will establish a streamlined and nationally consistent process for sharing it. The existing Criminal Code offences do not cover the manufacturing or possessing of an explosive in circumstances that may cause injury to a person or property.

It is extremely important in today's global terrorism climate that these offences are included in the Criminal Code. At this point I would like to acknowledge that we have a number of new LNP members in the 56th Parliament such as the member for Ninderry, the honourable Dan Purdie MP; the member for Nicklin, the honourable Martin Hunt MP; the member for Bundaberg, the honourable David Batt MP; and the member for Lockyer, the honourable Jim McDonald MP, who, given their professional experience, understand the importance of this legislation.

The bill also amends the Liquor Act to automatically provide each licensee whose licensed premises are located in one of the Gold Coast safe night precincts—namely, Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach—with the authority to sell liquor for an additional hour beyond their current permanently approved liquor service hours for each day of the 2018 Commonwealth Games period.

The non-government members of the committee felt that the Labor government missed some opportunities to capitalise on what is undoubtedly this state's largest ever event. Their concerns specifically related to the Liquor Act 1992 and its application during the Commonwealth Games. The Queensland Hotels Association raised some common-sense suggestions that were ignored by the Palaszczuk Labor government. For a government that so enjoys inquiries and reviews, it makes little sense that they would not be receptive to suggestions put forward by industry stakeholders.

These suggestions were with specific reference to, firstly, the extended hours trading period for the Commonwealth Games not being deducted from the usual six-day allocation given or provided; secondly, expanding extended trading hours to encompass all licensed venues in the entire Gold Coast local government area; and, thirdly, safe night precincts across the state where other Commonwealth Games events occur be afforded the same extended hours as the Gold Coast safe night precincts.

Consultation on changes regarding the Liquor Act 1992 was not widespread and, as such, possibly suggested that there was a predetermined outcome. It seems that there was no consultation undertaken with broader industry and tourism stakeholders, such as Clubs Queensland, the Queensland Hotels Association or Restaurant and Catering Australia. That is an indication of a Labor government which is not consultative and does not represent the views of the broader community.

Finally, I, like all Queenslanders, look forward to a safe and secure Commonwealth Games. I conclude by wishing all participants, visitors and residents all the best for a successful Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast in the coming months of 2018.