

Queensland Parliament Hansard Green

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SUBJECT: (no subject found)

MEMBER: Mr LANGBROEK

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (9.13 pm): I rise to speak to the committee report and today's events in question time when the Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games accused me of hypocrisy. It was a cheap shot, Mr Deputy Speaker, a bit like the character assassination that we have seen from the minister—

Ms JONES: Mr Deputy Speaker, I never accused the member of hypocrisy. I never said that about him and I ask him to withdraw that. I never said that. I was talking about the member for Everton who started reading into *Hansard* what I had attended. I never accused the member for Surfers Paradise of hypocrisy and I ask him to withdraw it. I would never say that about the member.

Mr LANGBROEK: I withdraw, Mr Deputy Speaker, but let me get to the detail of what happened this morning in question time. It is to do with the Broadbeach Bowls Club and today's assertion by the minister in relation to my attempts to lobby on behalf of the Broadbeach Bowls Club, which has made a significant contribution of \$1.5 million towards the redevelopment of their own particular club which is going to become the headquarters for bowls at the Commonwealth Games. They are unable to obtain the poker machine licences that the bank has said that they need in their business plan to make sure they can make the repayments on the loan that they have taken out to assist and augment the money that the government is providing for the upgrade of the Broadbeach Bowls Club. They are typical of who the member for Clayfield has spoken about before, a small to medium business making their own efforts, asking for a hand up not a handout, and today in question time the minister asserted that I, by asking about this particular issue at estimates, was being hypocritical in the sense that we had also asked today about extra poker machine licences being given to Echo for the Queen's Wharf project and that that was some example of my hypocrisy.

The poker machine licences that the Broadbeach Bowls Club are asking for are within the current cap. That is the issue that we raised today. It was about the current cap of machines that are often exchanged between clubs as certain clubs go to the wall or they give them back into the general pool and other clubs purchase them. The Broadbeach Bowls Club is in need of these particular machines. I asked the minister in good faith about what action she had taken as the minister and, of course, just as we have seen tonight, that gets turned back into some snide, sniping back the other way when I have always expressed a clear bipartisan attitude towards making sure that these games are a success. When it comes to the specific details about something like the Broadbeach Bowls Club, this is indicative of what the honourable member for Everton and the honourable member for Clayfield have just pointed out, and that is that this minister cannot be across all of the various aspects of her portfolio, including some of the front-line aspects. She says she is not being part-time, that she is getting across it all.

That is what I have seen tonight from this minister again in this debate. It is very disappointing. The Broadbeach Bowls Club is something that I spoke of in one of my first speeches in this House when they could not pay their land tax. The responsible minister at that time was Stephen Robertson. Thankfully we were able to achieve a result where that club could, through an arrangement with the council, afford their rates. The Australian Open will be hosted by the Broadbeach Bowls Club. The headquarters of Bowls Australia are now in Broadbeach. It has been moved from Melbourne. It is imperative for their repayments that they get these poker machine licences. The minister said to me that she would speak to Mayor Tom Tate. I am asking again, has the minister spoken to the local mayor, Tom Tate, to make sure that the Broadbeach Bowls Club can get their poker machine licences. This is not about politics. Small to medium business, as we have already heard, has had no red tape relief from this minister who would rather score cheap political shots instead of getting on with the portfolio aspects.

The Commonwealth Games is something that was handed to us with a \$2.4 billion bill.

Mr Nicholls: Not one cent in the budget.

Mr LANGBROEK: As the Treasurer has pointed out, not one cent was in the budget. Thanks to our strong and prudent fiscal management that cost is now down to \$1.8 billion. We have been able to

do that with \$6 billion of writedowns. The Gold Coast is looking forward to the games. We know it will lead to an enhanced reputation for the Gold Coast. There is great business confidence at the Gold Coast, but no confidence that in the area of tourism this minister will speak up against the removal of the VLAD laws that this government is saying it is going to remove. The people of the Gold Coast, and Broadbeach in particular, are concerned about the removal of those laws that will invite criminal gangs back into Queensland. Gold Coast members will stand up against that.