



Speech By
Jeff Seeneey

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

Record of Proceedings, 16 March 2016

MOTION: CASINO GAMING LICENCES

 **Mr SEENEY** (Callide—LNP) (6.21 pm): Mr Speaker—

Government members interjected.

Mr Hinchliffe interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members! Leader of the House, you will be warned if you persist. I am waiting for silence so I can call the member for Callide for his contribution.

Mr SEENEY: I too am waiting for silence to say that I do not think I have ever seen a local member destroy an investment opportunity in their electorate quite as comprehensively as the member for Keppel. I do not think I have ever seen a local member so disregard the concerns of their electorate.

The motion that has been moved by the Leader of the Opposition is about a lot more than Great Keppel Island. It is primarily about the enormous incompetence that we have seen from the minister responsible. There is a rumour around that the member for Stafford would rather be the health minister. Could I suggest that the member for Stafford should be the health minister because he is an appalling Minister for State Development.

I have sat here for a little over 12 months and watched him hand in the homework of the government ministers that made up the previous government—the work that I did in my department, the work that the member for Hinchinbrook did in his department, the work that the member for Glass House did in his department.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SEENEY: I knew that. I have seen the minister take credit for all of those things that we put in place. Even this morning he was in here taking credit for the IRDs, the international resort developments, that we put in place. It was an entirely new concept that we developed so that the Queensland tourism industry could be competitive in the world market.

We identified the Queensland tourism industry as one of the pillars of the Queensland economy. Together with the minister for tourism at the time, the member for Currumbin, we looked at what the Queensland tourism industry needed to be competitive on the international tourist scene because we have to be. We compete in a worldwide market. We compete with tourism developments all over the world.

One of the things we identified was the need for these signature resorts, these destination type resorts—the international resort developments that the minister spoke about earlier and that we facilitated when we were in government. The first one was the Queen's Wharf development. There was an opportunity for two others.

In pursuing that opportunity and in calling for tenders for those other two licences that we initially made available it became immediately apparent that there was another level of tourism development that needed to be addressed. There was another level of tourism operators who needed to compete in the international market. They were offshore islands. They were the islands all the way up and down the coast of Queensland that have an enormous natural attraction for people from all over the world.

The case was made to us by a number of operators of resorts or potential operators of resorts on those islands that to compete in the international market they had to have an ability to provide gaming facilities for the guests that they hope to attract. For the minister to come in here tonight and suggest that somehow or other that product is a comparison with the casinos that already exist in Queensland or that exist in other cities is incredibly ignorant of the challenge that the Queensland tourism industry faces. I have sat here and listened to some puerile, juvenile interjections from a minister who is responsible—

Dr LYNHAM: I rise to a point of order, Mr Speaker. Naturally I take offence at that.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Callide, the minister has taken offence and I ask you to withdraw.

Mr SEENEY: I withdraw, but can I say that any member who comes into this House—

Mr SPEAKER: It is an unconditional withdrawal.

Mr SEENEY: I unconditionally withdraw. Any member in this debate who yells across the chamber, 'How many tables? How many roulette wheels?' is puerile and juvenile in their approach.

Dr LYNHAM: I rise to a point of order, Mr Speaker. I take offence to those remarks.

Mr STEVENS: I rise to a point of order, Mr Speaker. He did not refer to the member. He said any member.

Mr SPEAKER: There is no point of order.

Mr SEENEY: What this motion calls for is what my department was doing. It was developing a policy, developing a template with the resort operators. We were consulting and working with the people who have to compete in the international tourism market on the product that they needed in order to compete so that the Queensland tourism industry could continue to be a pillar of our economy. The absurdity of the approach that the minister has taken tonight is that those tourism operators are going to be denied the opportunity to invest in Queensland. The jobs that they would create will go somewhere else.