

**Legislative Council**

**Wednesday, 14 September 2011, Page 3808**

**CASINO (ENCLOSED AREAS) AMENDMENT BILL**

**The Hon. A. BRESSINGTON (20:35):**

I also rise to briefly indicate my full support for this bill introduced by the Hon. John Darley, following the report in *The Advertiser* that the casino had located 20 poker machines in the outdoor smoking area known as the Oasis.

Whilst the casino argues that the area was approved for gambling in 1986, and this may well be true, there can be no doubting that since that time, particularly since the introduction of poker machines some seven years later, we have become more stringent in our regulation. This can be seen in the soon-to-be-universal ban on smoking in all gambling areas: a policy we know works given the 10 per cent decline in gambling revenue following the introduction of the smoking ban in pubs and clubs. Cause and effect is still yet to be determined, obviously.

I must convey my disappointment with the Casino in its attempt to locate poker machines in a smoking area. It can hardly claim ignorance of the government policy or of the fact that every other gambling venue, be it a pub or club, is prevented by law from having poker machines in outdoor smoking areas. This is a cynical attempt, in my view, to take advantage of its unique legislative status. This is particularly true, given the Office of the Liquor and Gambling Commissioner's statement that it had previously refused permission to locate gambling machines in the Oasis area.

Like the Hon. John Darley, I commend the action taken by the then gambling minister, though I note that it took the issue to be revealed in the media first. However, I am hopeful that that action will be followed through with the support of the bill, as I have just seen is going to occur. I have to put a tag on this that I am really confused by some of the arguments made by the Hon. Terry Stephens, but I do not think I am the only one. With that, I will leave it.