



David Littleproud MP

Federal Member for Maranoa

Media statement

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Coalition Government supporting Maranoa business and community clubs with a move to ban 'Lottoland'-type syndicate betting

THE Coalition Government is introducing a ban on fake lottery websites in a move to support rural businesses, pubs and clubs, Maranoa MP David Littleproud said.

"Permitting betting on these services, also known as 'synthetic' lotteries, undermines the long-standing community acceptance of official lottery and keno products," Mr Littleproud said.

"These are not real lotto games but are foreign, online betting entity managing player bets on the outcomes of real lotteries.

"Australians support a fair go, expect businesses to pay their fair share of tax and these 'synthetic' lotteries are just not fair dinkum.

"I've been speaking with local newsagencies in my electorate on this issue and five newsagencies – in Killarney, Texas, St George, Longreach and Dalby – collected about 500 signatures in support of banning this type of 'synthetic' lottery.

"I'm glad I was able to support my local businesses with the Coalition Government making moves to ban this type of trickery betting.

"I believe the syndicate model encourages problem gambling with tricky advertising, promotes high-risk spending and misleads in regards to winnings available.

"Not only does it come at a significant cost to tax collection but also to local family-run small businesses which employ locally, pay Australian taxes and support the local community."

Traditional lotteries and keno games are popular and long-standing recreational gambling products that form an important income stream for thousands of small businesses across Australia, including newsagents, pharmacies, pubs and community clubs.

Online services offering products that involve betting on lottery outcomes are relatively new and have generated considerable community concern. Since these concerns were first raised last year, the Coalition Government has listened carefully to a range of groups that have views on the undesirability of permitting betting on these products.

Many Australians enjoy lotteries and keno as a recreational activity, and the Coalition Government is committed to ensuring that gambling takes place under a robust legislative framework with strong consumer protections and within the boundaries of community standards.

“The legislation will commence operation six months after passage through the Parliament to ensure that those businesses currently offering online betting on lotteries and keno have an appropriate transition period within which to cease their activity,” Mr Littleproud said.

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Media Contact:

Eloise Handley

M: 0411 095 860

E: eloise.handley@aph.gov.au
