

Meadowbrook Speech II - 3 minutes (460 words)

Deputy-Speaker, I rise today to update the House on an intriguing story involving a business from my electorate of Forde, in South East Queensland.

The Meadowbrook Country Golf Club, where I am an Honorary Member, has been involved in a protracted dispute with the Logan City Council.

Meadowbrook is a 27-hole public golf course nestled in a pretty pocket of South East Queensland, just 20 minutes from Brisbane and 30 minutes north of the Gold Coast.

It is sandwiched between the M1 motorway and the Logan Motorway, running along Slacks Creek. Its nearest neighbour is the Griffith University Logan Campus.

I was recently there, and they have just completed some fantastic renovations which include a new min-golf course and an outdoor dining area behind the driving range.

The clubhouse is also a wonderful location for any celebration, including weddings, birthday or Christmas parties and corporate events.

But there is a shadow hanging over Meadowbrook, and as I have previously outlined to the House, it concerns the troubled relationship between the golf club and Logan City Council.

The problems began more than a decade ago with a decision by the Council affiliated Logan Water Alliance and the decision

to construct a new sewer line through the middle of the Meadowbrook course.

This obviously had a severely detrimental impact on the course, which in turn resulted in declining membership numbers and consequentially a financial downturn.

The operators of the Meadowbrook Golf Club, the Australian Golf Management Corporation, had signed a 90-year lease with Logan City Council in 1987.

The club, in what it says was an attempt to recover from this disastrous event, applied to council for permission to install 50 poker machines to bolster its revenue and recoup some of its losses.

After eight months, Logan City Council finally approved the pokies application, but the Club's operators say the conditions of the agreement are 'unreasonable.'

As part of the terms, Australian Golf Management Corporation claims that council is now demanding that they sign a new lease.

As I mentioned previously, the Corporation had signed a 90-year lease in 1987, and they maintain there is no need to sign a new one; arguing that the only thing that is required is for Logan City Council to approve a new sublease and liquor licence.

Despite four previous subleases being approved in a short period of time, the most recent process took considerably longer and came involved costly legal fees.

Deputy-Speaker, which is the second, but I fear not final, chapter in this sorry saga between Meadowbrook Country Golf Club and the Logan City Council.

I look forward to bringing the House up to date, with what will hopefully be final instalment and a happy ending, soon.