




Speech By  
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**MEMBER FOR ALBERT**

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### **COUNTER-TERRORISM AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Albert—LNP) (9.29 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Counter-Terrorism and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. Firstly, I thank all the members of the committee who worked on this legislation, the staff and all those who participated in the committee process.

Through the media we are buffeted by news reports of acts of terrorism around the world and here in Australia. Terrorism is nothing new. Throughout history terrorism has been well documented in all forms from state sponsored to radical idealists. It is used to hurt those most innocent in our society without discrimination. No better examples can be found than the callous brutality of the Bastille Day atrocities where 84 people were killed including 10 children. As we know, this attack has not been the only one. In Pakistan on 8 August 2016, 77 people were killed by a suicide bomber at a government hospital. In France on 26 July 2016, a priest had his throat slit and four nuns were taken hostage. In Germany on 24 July, there was a suicide bombing outside a wine bar. In Iraq on 3 July two coordinated bomb attacks killed over 300 people. We can go on and on.

Unfortunately, Australia is not immune to these activities. As we heard from the previous speaker, the member for Cleveland, in 2015 there was the Parramatta shooting in which a New South Wales police civilian was murdered in cold blood; the Lindt Chocolate Cafe siege in Martin Place; and the Endeavour Hills stabbings. Add to this the sixth imminent planned attacks foiled within the borders of Australia resulting in 36 people being charged and we continue to see the very real threat of terrorism in this country. We continue to see terrorism cells carry out mass casualty attacks, but as time goes on we have seen more and more low-tech lone-wolf style assaults which, in turn, are harder to detect and disrupt as there may not be any telltale signs or any communication between terrorist groups. These styles of attack are normally inspired by hate preaching from an idealist and target those who have become disconnected from society. In turn, this has created a certain amount of unease in our communities whether it is the very notion of sharia law or halal stamped on our food packaging. Add this to what we see in the mainstream media and it further cements the constant fear and reminder our community has to endure. These thoughts are placed front and centre in our minds and our residents are becoming more and more concerned and it is becoming more and more of a common topic.

It is destiny that history repeats itself. We do not need to look too far back in history to see other beliefs and philosophies have resulted in people committing the most abhorrent attacks on innocent people, even their own neighbours. Therefore it is the role of parliamentarians to implement laws that enhance public safety by enabling law enforcement agencies to have the tools to rapidly deal with emergency situations. This bill certainly goes a long way to deal with that. It introduces amendments that will: enable police to require any person or organisation to provide information during a declared emergency under specific circumstances and balanced by a range of safeguards; create an offence to refuse to provide information sought by police or give false or misleading information with penalties of up to 10 years imprisonment to apply; extend a terrorist emergency in circumstances where it is

necessary to protect life or health or protect critical infrastructure; extend the powers to search and seize vehicles as they leave or enter a declared area; and broaden powers for police to seize things from a person during a declared emergency including things that a person may use to cause harm.

Whilst the threat of terrorism is certainly very real in our community, we cannot live in fear and allow it to ruin our lives. We have to thank our law enforcement agencies for all their efforts in keeping our community safe and for their continued efforts in dealing with the threats in a professional manner. They place themselves on the front line, at risk. They need laws to protect us. Also as a community we must be vigilant and take steps to report suspicious activities. Together as a community we can make it extremely difficult for minority groups to prosecute these murderous acts.

When it comes to convicted terrorists who wish to commit maximum carnage, who prey on the innocent, why should they ever be released from prison as they have proven they are not fit for society? As the member for Coomera previously said, more needs to be done in preventing radicals from recruiting other individuals while in prison, but that is a debate for another time.