

~~of silence and oaths of loyalty are fractured when it becomes clear that some of those being protected by silence have sold out. The mandatory terms of imprisonment will also make it less attractive for criminals to be part of these gangs and will enhance community safety by providing for the severe punishment for serious offending.~~

~~A review of the provisions contained in the new Vicious Lawless Association Disestablishment Act will occur three years after commencement. It is imperative that this bill be passed as a matter of urgency to ensure the public is protected from the serious criminal activities of criminal associations. I commend this bill to the House.~~

First Reading

~~Hon. JP BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (2.34 pm): I move—~~

~~That the bill be now read a first time.~~

~~Question put—That the bill be now read a first time.~~

~~Motion agreed to.~~

~~Bill read a first time.~~

~~Debate, on motion of Ms Palaszczuk, adjourned.~~

TATTOO PARLOURS BILL

Introduction



Hon. JP BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (2.34 pm): I present a bill for an act to provide for the licensing and regulation of body art tattooing businesses and body art tattooists and other related matters and to amend the Liquor Act 1992 and the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 for particular purposes. I table the bill and explanatory notes.

Tabled paper: Tattoo Parlours Bill 2013.

Tabled paper: Tattoo Parlours Bill 2013, explanatory notes.

I am pleased to introduce the Tattoo Parlours Bill 2013. As part of a package of measures the government is introducing to tackle organised crime in Queensland, the government has made a commitment to ban members of criminal organisations from owning, operating or working in body art tattoo parlours. The principal objective of the bill is to introduce a new occupational licensing and regulatory framework which eliminates and prevents infiltration of the Queensland tattoo industry by criminal organisations, including criminal motorcycle gangs and their associates. The act that will be created as a result of the Tattoo Parlours Bill is very similar to legislation that was recently passed in New South Wales after a number of drive-by shootings, fire bombings and violence that had occurred at tattoo parlours linked to criminal motorcycle gangs.

Under the new scheme, people will be prohibited from conducting a body art tattooing business or from performing a body art tattooing procedure, with certain limited exceptions, without the authority of a licence or permit. Licence applicants will be required to satisfy strict identification requirements and as part of the application process will be required to provide their finger and palm prints. The bill allows the Commissioner of Police to conduct investigations into licence applicants and licensees and their associates to ensure that only fit and proper persons are granted and able to hold licences and that granting a licence would not be contrary to the public interest. Unlicensed trading will result in penalties of up to 18 months imprisonment. The provisions of the bill will primarily be enforced by the Queensland Police Service. The new act will be a vital tool in ensuring that the stranglehold criminal motorcycle gangs have over the tattoo industry in Queensland is broken. The new act will commence by proclamation, with the licensing scheme commencing on 6 January 2014 and the compliance provisions to commence on 1 July 2014.

The bill also amends the Liquor Act 1992 to prohibit members of criminal motorcycle gangs from wearing or displaying material associated with criminal motorcycle gangs while in liquor licensed venues and within areas prescribed by regulation. These violent gangs use their symbols to intimidate others and without these symbols the gang members become just ordinary thugs. Preventing gang members from wearing or displaying material associated with their gang is another tool that may be used to break the gang mentality and mitigate some of the risks arising out of physical confrontations between rival gangs. The amendments to the Liquor Act 1992 will commence on assent.

A review of the provisions contained in the proposed Tattoo Parlours Act and other provisions inserted by the bill will occur three years after commencement. As part of a second phase of reforms, other acts will be amended so that licences are refused to individuals who QPS advise are members of criminal motorcycle gangs. The urgent passage of this bill is paramount to ensuring the community is protected from the activities of criminal motorcycle gangs and the streets of Queensland are once again safe for everyone. I commend this bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. JP BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (2.38 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

Question put—That the bill be now read a first time.


Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Debate, on motion of Ms Palaszczuk, adjourned.

CRIMINAL LAW (CRIMINAL ORGANISATIONS DISRUPTION) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (2.38 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Bail Act 1980, the Crime and Misconduct Act 2001, the Criminal Code, the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992, the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 and the Tow Truck Act 1973 for particular purposes, to make a regulation under the Criminal Code and to amend the Crime and Misconduct Regulation 2005 for particular purposes. I table the bill and explanatory notes.

Tabled paper: Criminal Law (Criminal Organisations Disruption Amendment Bill) 2013.

Tabled paper: Criminal Law (Criminal Organisations Disruption Amendment Bill) 2013, explanatory notes.

I am pleased to introduce the Criminal Law (Criminal Organisations Disruption) Amendment Bill 2013. After a violent confrontation between two criminal motorcycle gangs recently occurring in Broadbeach, the government vowed that we would act swiftly and decisively to ensure the community is protected from these vicious, violent thugs.

023 The bill amends the Criminal Code by inserting new offences and circumstances of aggravation for existing offences that target the members of criminal organisations. An additional limb will be added to the definition of 'criminal organisation' in the Criminal Code so that criminal organisations that are prescribed by regulation are captured.

The bill will create three new offences aimed at preventing members of criminal motorcycle gangs from gathering in groups or at prescribed locations and promoting or recruiting for their organisation. The maximum penalty for these offences will be three years imprisonment but they will carry a mandatory minimum penalty of six months imprisonment. The current maximum penalty for the offence of affray will be increased from one year imprisonment to seven years where the offence is committed by a member of a criminal motorcycle gang. This offence will carry a mandatory minimum penalty of six months imprisonment. Any vehicle used before, during or after the commission of these four offences will be confiscated and then crushed on conviction. A mandatory three-year licence disqualification will also attach to these four offences. Criminal motorcycle gang members will face a mandatory penalty of one year imprisonment for serious assaults on police officers.

The bill also amends the Bail Act 1980 so that there is a presumption against bail for criminal motorcycle gang members and they will be forced to surrender their passport if bail is granted. Let us make it clear: this government believes members or associates of criminal motorcycle gangs should be in jail and not get bail. The bill will double the penalty for criminal motorcycle gang members who evade police to 100 penalty units or 100 days imprisonment and will provide for mandatory confiscation and crushing of any vehicle used before, during or after the commission of the offence.