

Queensland Police Union of Employees

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Mark Furner MP
Chair
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE 4000

Via email: lacsc@parliament.qld.gov.au

6 October 2016

Dear Mark,

Re: Serious and Organised Crime Legislation Amendment Bill 2016

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Amendment Bill.

The Queensland Police Union (QPU) represents over 11,650 members consisting of police officers, police liaison officers and assistant watchhouse officers.

The QPU is broadly supportive of the Serious and Organised Crime Legislation Amendment Bill 2016.

The QPU was on the taskforce that examined these laws and has been involved subsequently with the formulation of these laws together with the Queensland Police Service.

The QPU has been consulted by the Premier, Deputy Premier, Police Minister and Attorney-General on these laws over the last six months.

The QPU has also held discussions with the Police Commissioner on these proposed laws and notes his comments on these proposed laws, namely, *"Once the public has been able to consider the proposed laws, I think people will see that they are the strongest laws that possibly exist in Australia to tackle organised crime."*

The QPU will be closely monitoring these laws over the two year transition period and we expect to hold regular discussions with the government over this period on the efficacy of these laws.

The QPU supports the banning of colours at all times in public.

The QPU is comforted by the personal assurances that Premier Palaszczuk and Deputy Premier Jackie Trad have made that they will not tolerate a return of bikie clubhouses.

The QPU is also comforted by a two year transition period as proposed in this bill and the assurance from government that if in the future the QPU believes further changes are needed to make these laws more effective, the government will consider and amend them accordingly.

Just like the legislation in this area that has evolved significantly over the best part of the last decade, the QPU believes these laws too are another stop on the continuum and that constant improvement, review and enhancement to ensure we have as the Police Commissioner contends, *"the strongest laws that possibly exist in Australia to tackle organised crime"* will continue to be the case.

I am available to discuss this matter at any time.

Yours sincerely

IAN LEAVERS
GENERAL PRESIDENT & CEO