

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee](#)  
**Subject:** My own personal Submission on the Serious and Organised Crime Legislation Amendment Bill 2016  
**Date:** Saturday, 1 October 2016 6:00:15 PM

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Dear Research Director,

I write as a resident of Queensland to lodge my strong opposition to the Palaszczuk Labor Government's Serious and Organised Crime Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 (Labor's bill) that is being reviewed by the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee.

I had noticed a significant improvement in peace and quiet in my home street as the 20-100 motorbikes stopped pack' zooming up and down on a regular almost weekly basis.

I noticed significant improvement in the Gold Coast as families, the general public, the elderly, and the vulnerable, seemed to more freely walk about the streets, and spoke to me of feeling safer, as indeed did my family.

The bikie gun shooting at Robina Town Centre Shopping Complex had sent lasting fear throughout the community, with people wondering where gun shoot outs and attacks in public places would happen next, so we kept our outings brief and we constantly observed those about us for signs of gangs, for bikie attire, for anything that might signal a threat. Further bikie attacks occurred in public places such as at fast food outlets, pubs and shopping malls. People, that aren't bikies, live in fear of bikies.

I travel in my car, I hear motorbikes move up beside my car, I look up and get an awful fright as skull masks look back at me, the masks some of them wear to deliberately intimidate and frighten people, ...these should be banned.

The bikies are reported to be involved in recruiting young children and teens at football and sporting venues and clubs, to join their groups, to sell drugs to them or get them to sell for them.

Ice is a huge problem on the Gold Coast as it is everywhere, I read that the bikies are involved heavily in the making, selling and profiting from Ice and other drugs.

There is just nothing good about bikie gangs.

The laws put in place in Queensland and at the Gold Coast made a hugely noticeable improvement in the reduction of the visible presence of bikies, and police reports I have heard and read about, indicate a huge positive drop in bikie related crime, drugs, intimidation and disturbances.

I want these anti bikie laws to not only stay, but to also be added to to make them harsher and wider encompassing, to deter bikie membership, deter bikies getting together, deter bikie group recruiting, deter bikies bringing their revenge, extortion and gang wars into public places, to give the police the mandate, power and scope to make it too unpleasant, or not worthwhile to be a bikie and thus reduce to extinction the bikie gangs, culture and criminal power.

I have already been seeing bikies grouping again, it seems the Palaszczuk government's move to water down the laws is already giving bikies renewed confidence and brazen-ness; they need to know the pressure is on, will stay on, and (hopefully) will increase, a "no tolerance" stance by government, laws, and police with the power to act to enforce and break up potentially criminal activities.

I want to ask you to support me, my welfare, my family welfare and my community safety by opposing any watering down of the "anti-bikie laws", by keeping the current laws permanently in place.

I want to feel safe where I live, where I go, in Queensland and anywhere in Australia, please help make Australia a safer place.

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The laws that were introduced in 2013 to deal with criminal gangs and all forms of organised crime in Queensland have been working and the results speak for themselves.

In 2014, crime significantly decreased on the Gold Coast.

- Homicide reduced by 21.4%
- Assaults reduced by almost 2%

- Robbery reduced by 17.2%
- Unlawful entry reduced by 27%
- Car theft reduced by almost 18%
- Drug offences increased by 29.4% meaning that more drugs were off our streets.

I want to lodge the following opposition to elements of Labor's bill:

- Scrapping the VLAD laws;
- Removing important police powers, such as their ability to stop, search and detain a participant in a criminal organisation based on reasonable suspicion and removing the circumstance of aggravation for evading police;
- Generally watering down a number of strong penalties;
- Removing the fit and proper person test from certain industries that encourage criminal gang members to have an honest job;
- Scrapping the anti-association provisions (60A) and clubhouse provisions (60B) in the Criminal Code;
- Removing the same presumption against bail for criminal gangs that is used for people accused of murder;
- Removing the mandatory one year jail time for serious assault of a police officer if committed by a participant in a criminal organisation;
- Making it easier for a criminal gang member to get a weapons licence;
- The clubhouses that were closed down by the LNP are only guaranteed to remain closed for only two years and there is no guarantee that new clubhouses won't spring up;
- Removing segregation orders so criminal gangs can now recruit members in jail once again; and
- Watering down strong penalties for contempt of the Crime and Corruption Commission.

There is no justifiable reason why the 2013 laws need to be repealed and replaced. The laws were working, crime dramatically reduced and the community felt safer as a result.

The Taskforce review that was established to review these laws was not a fair review and the terms of reference indicated that. That were set up to achieve a political outcome, not a community safety outcome.

The elements in Labor's bill which have been retained have been primarily taken from the Criminal Organisation Act 2009 (COA) – Labor's failed laws which led to no criminal organisations being declared and were the laws in place when the Broadbeach brawl happened in 2013, when 50 Bandidos started a fight in a restaurant in front of families enjoying a Friday night out and then proceeded to start a siege outside the Southport police station to demand that their mates be let out.

Any elements of the COA laws that are retained will not be useful in dealing with organised crime and need to be scrapped.

Finally, I would encourage all committee members to listen to the views of the people of Queensland and weigh up that view with the small minority of stakeholders who have been vocal in their opposition to the 2013 laws. The results of those laws speak for themselves and the community is a safer place because of them. Governments should be representative of the people and an overwhelming majority of the people of Queensland support the 2013 laws.

Yours sincerely

J. Linnett

, Queensland.