

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee](#)
Subject: Submission on the Serious and Organised Crime Legislation Amendment Bill 2016
Date: Wednesday, 28 September 2016 3:03:51 PM

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.

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There is no justifiable reason why the 2013 laws need to be repealed and replaced.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.

Regards

