



Legal Affairs, Police, Corrective
Services and Emergency Services
Committee

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Editor's notes:

- In June 2011, the Parliament established portfolio based committees whose role includes the scrutiny or examination of Bills introduced into the Parliament.
- The Legal Affairs, Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services Committee has responsibilities in the portfolio areas of Attorney-General and Justice, Fair Trading, Police and Community Safety.
- Hon Dean Wells will be available for interviews - please call (07) 3293 1069
- Further information is available from: www.parliament.qld.gov.au/lapcsesc or by contacting the committee secretariat on (07) 3406 7307.

Media Release

Changes to Police powers - call for public submissions

A parliamentary committee wants to hear your views on the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2011 (the Bill). The Legal Affairs, Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services Committee (the committee) will examine the policy to be enacted by the Bill and the application to the Bill of fundamental legislative principles.

Public submissions on the Bill close on **Friday 23 September 2011**.

The Bill proposes, amongst other matters, to widen the powers of Queensland Police officers in relation to search and seizure. The Bill would allow:

- pat-down searches of persons detained under certain provisions for maintaining public order;
- pat-down searches of minors suspected of unlawfully possessing alcohol;
- changes to community service orders imposed as an alternative to vehicle impoundments;
- changes to the taking of DNA samples, including samples from child victims;
- non-government forensic laboratory analysis of DNA samples;
- expansion of the circumstances in which a disease test order can be obtained;
- police to act on anonymous noise complaints;
- the extension of the noise abatement period to up to four days;
- police to exclude an occupier from accompanying a police officer during certain searches, for safety reasons;
- police reconnaissance of property prior to installation of a surveillance device under the terms of a warrant; and
- involvement of civilian participants in controlled activities like, for example, introducing undercover police officers to drug dealers.

The parliamentary committee has called for submissions to allow individuals and organisations the opportunity to have their say on the proposed legislation, and to assist the committee in forming any recommendations to the Parliament. The committee intends to hold public hearings at Parliament House in late September 2011.

The Bill and explanatory notes can be accessed at
http://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/Bill/Pages/Bill_53_11.htm

For further information, contact the committee secretariat on the contact details below:

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