



Speech by

Robert Messenger

MEMBER FOR BURNETT

Hansard Wednesday, 10 October 2007

CRIMINAL CODE (ASSAULTS AGAINST POLICE AND OTHERS) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Mr MESSENGER (Burnett—NPA) (11.37 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

I rise to introduce the Criminal Code (Assaults Against Police Officers and Others) Amendment Bill. This new and historic bill will offer dramatically increased legislative protection for police, prison, ambulance and fire officers by ensuring that any offender who is found guilty of seriously assaulting our state's fair dinkum heroes will serve a minimum of three months in jail.

This legislation will not allow magistrates and judges to give thugs and idiots who want to use our police officers as punching bags the soft option of court ordered parole or suspended sentences. This bill will introduce a minimum sentencing range that will see all offenders who seriously assault police, prison, ambulance and fire officers spend at least three months in prison. This bill will ensure consistency in sentencing and send a clear message to any would-be offender that the people of Queensland will not tolerate any assaults on our hardworking front-line service delivery officers.

In 2004-05 there were over 830 serious assaults on police alone! That means every day almost three police officers are brutally bashed while serving and protecting the families of Queensland. According to this government's own statistics released on 29 July 2007, only one in three people who were found guilty of seriously assaulting a police officer ever saw the inside of the jail. Most walked out of court with nothing more than a stern talking-to. This injustice must be stopped!

I call on all the Labor members of this chamber to put aside their rigid and inflexible political ideology and join with our police officers, our corrective service officers, our ambulance officers, our fire service officers, their family members and the Queensland coalition in supporting this legislation that is long overdue. I commend the bill to the House.