



Speech by

Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

Hansard Thursday, 23 April 2009

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs

Hon. CR DICK (Greenslopes—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Industrial Relations) (10.23 am): The responsibilities of Attorney-General and Minister for Industrial Relations are very closely linked, and the issues they relate to are very important to every single Queenslanders. Fundamentally, they are about providing a fair, just and safe community.

I am committed to ensuring the Bligh government continues to uphold these principles, to build an even better future for tomorrow's Queensland. To this end, I have already started work on the development of new laws to protect our community from the scourge of organised crime, particularly by members of outlaw motorcycle gangs.

The police minister and I will provide cabinet with legislative options which are both forceful and effective, maintaining a balance between the rights of individuals and the protection of the community. Members of outlaw motorcycle gangs across Australia are involved in serious criminal activity and have been convicted of heinous crimes including murder, drug manufacture and trafficking, serious assaults and money laundering.

In addition to the proposed laws, this government has taken significant steps to crack down on such activities. We have introduced tough laws to confiscate proceeds of crime, and this week the Premier has reintroduced a bill to provide police with telephone interception powers. This government went to the election with a commitment to look at the feasibility of introducing further laws to protect Queenslanders from organised crime, and we are taking immediate action to meet this commitment.

Last week I attended a meeting of the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General. All Attorneys-General agreed to a unified approach to implementing legislation which will ensure there are no loopholes or safe havens for organised criminals, including outlaw motorcycle gangs. It is essential that the outcomes of our laws are consistent, regardless of the specific legislative models each jurisdiction implements. This means that the work we are undertaking here in Queensland will be supported in all other jurisdictions.

Our laws are not about targeting people who ride motorcycles; they are about targeting people who are engaged in serious criminal activity. If people obey the law and do the right thing then they have nothing to fear. If they do not, our laws will bring them to justice and protect the Queensland community.