



Speech by

Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

Hansard Thursday, 18 June 2009

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Watson, Mr DG

Hon. CR DICK (Greenslopes—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Industrial Relations) (9.44 am): The state will today lodge an appeal against the sentence handed down in the case of David Gabriel Watson. I have noted the significant community interest in this case and for this reason I am outlining this decision to the House this morning.

Mr Watson was this month convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to 4½ years imprisonment to be suspended after 12 months. I have formed the view that this sentence is manifestly inadequate and the state will therefore lodge an appeal against the sentence in the Queensland Court of Appeal.

The Queensland Solicitor-General, Mr Walter Sofronoff QC, will now be briefed to represent the state in this matter, which will be heard before the Court of Appeal on a date to be fixed. The authority of the state to appeal criminal sentences is a significant power. It is a power that should be exercised after careful consideration and due deliberation. As this case will now be before the courts, it would be inappropriate for me to make any further comment.