



Speech by

## Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

Hansard Thursday, 15 April 2010

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### MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

#### Proceeds of Crime Legislation

**Hon. CR DICK** (Greenslopes—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Industrial Relations) (10.19 am): The Bligh government has been consistently tough on crime across the full spectrum of the criminal justice system. We have increased police numbers, we have toughened up penalties for serious offences and we have introduced laws to dismantle criminal organisations. Another important aspect of our ongoing campaign against crime is our proceeds of crime legislation. This legislation allows the Crime and Misconduct Commission and the Director of Public Prosecutions to seek court orders restraining and forfeiting proceeds of crime and tainted property, including cash, possessions and even people's homes. The incentive to become involved in crime is reduced when criminals face the prospect of losing their ill-gotten gains, as well as any other penalties a court may impose.

The impact of our legislation was highlighted last year when the CMC reached an important milestone—the \$100 million mark for the value of proceeds of crime collected. Last year we passed amendments to the Criminal Proceeds Confiscation Act 2002—amendments that have now been in place for almost 12 months. During the development of the Criminal Organisation Bill last year, the government made a decision to review the effectiveness of these changes, and I can inform the House that this review has started. A working party has been convened by the Department of Justice and Attorney-General and key stakeholders will be asked to make submissions to the review. In particular, the review will look at how last year's amendments are working, along with recent developments in other jurisdictions in relation to unexplained wealth and the sharing of proceeds of crime between jurisdictions following successful cases. The review will also consider any changes that may be required to further strengthen and improve the act. If the review finds that we can do more in relation to cracking down on criminals, particularly those involved in organised crime, then the government is prepared to consider further changes to this legislation. The Bligh Labor government is determined to continue its tough-on-crime stance, and this latest review will help identify and investigate any further areas to ensure that crime does not pay in Queensland.