



Speech by

Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

Hansard Friday, 11 June 2010

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

People Smuggling

Hon. CR DICK (Greenslopes—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Industrial Relations) (9.50 am): All Australians have an interest in ensuring that individuals engaged in the despicable practice of people smuggling are caught, prosecuted and punished according to the law. This is an activity that preys upon the vulnerable, the desperate and the weak. It exploits those in dire need. We must condemn it and we must take action to stamp it out.

Border protection and people smuggling are national issues and we must all play a part. It has been widely reported publicly that individuals have been brought to Queensland who are facing charges of people smuggling. These individuals are now being held securely in jail.

The federal Labor government has tough laws against people smuggling, with repeat offenders facing up to 20 years behind bars. This is not the first time federal offences have been dealt with in Queensland and nor will it be the last. It is not the first time people smugglers have been prosecuted through the Queensland courts, including during the Howard government years. Under the law, Canberra chooses where these cases are prosecuted. This is not a matter for the state. It is a matter for the Commonwealth and remains a Commonwealth responsibility.