



Speech by


**Michael Crandon**

**MEMBER FOR COOMERA**

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## **CRIMINAL PROCEEDS CONFISCATION (SERIOUS AND ORGANISED CRIME UNEXPLAINED WEALTH) AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (7.48 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Criminal Proceeds Confiscation (Serious and Organised Crime Unexplained Wealth) Amendment Bill 2010. I congratulate the member for Southern Downs for his efforts over time and now the member for Kawana, the shadow Attorney-General, for his work in putting this bill before the House. The purpose of the bill is to provide law enforcement agencies with the power to seek an unexplained wealth order against individuals. This Labor government is weak on organised crime. It is accepted by almost all law enforcement agencies that one of the best ways to fight organised crime is to follow the money trail. The motive for organised crime is profit: pure and simple. So if we attack the profits of organised crime then we remove the motive. It sounds simple.

One of the impediments, though, is resources—or lack of resources. Take the Coomera police district, for example. Here we have a police district with one police officer for every 1,150 or so residents compared to the state average of around one police officer for every 350 residents. We need to identify who the ringleaders are and where they are. If you were a crime figure, where are you likely to hide your wealth? Would you hide it in an area that has an abundance of police or would you hide it where the police are so busy just trying to keep up with the call-outs that they receive each month that they do not have time to do very much proactive police work? Welcome to Coomera police district! On the numbers, the workload for officers in the Coomera police district is around three times that of the average. Remember, there is no question that our officers need to be proactive in finding the profits from organised crime. The problem is that they are under such horrendous workloads and they can only do so much. Yes, they are observant. After all, that is what they have been trained to be. But they can only do so much. When they are busy attending to the never-ending list of call-outs they cannot also be expected to work in a fully proactive and efficient manner as well.

What is the start of the solution? To immediately take the tactical crime squad to a full 14-officer squad. A tactical crime squad works in a proactive way. They are relieved of the day-to-day duties that general duties police are required to undertake. They are out there in the marketplace being more proactive, more observant and piecing together the intelligence needed to attack organised crime organisations. The police minister has announced the formation of a tactical crime squad for the Coomera district and for that we are grateful. But why go halfway? Why allocate seven officers now when it is clear, with the spike in crime in the northern Gold Coast, that we need a full squad now? We have the resources. The minister said as much some weeks ago in this place. He announced that there are a certain number of police officers allocated to various divisions around the state. He then said that there are a number of officers still to be allocated. I can tell the minister where we need seven of those officers to be allocated right now. We all know that the Coomera police district is the most underresourced district in Queensland.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Hoolihan): Member for Coomera, I can be fairly patient, but let us deal with the bill, not the Coomera police district, thank you.

**Mr CRANDON:** Mr Deputy Speaker, thank you for your guidance. Indeed, it would seem that the Coomera police district has something like 20 per cent of the workload and has only 10 per cent to 15 per cent of the resources. If we want to fight organised crime, if we want to work to identify the unexplained assets of organised crime organisations, then let us have the resources allocated in such a way so as to get maximum bang for our buck.

**Mr O'Brien** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Cook, you have had your final warning.

**Mr CRANDON:** Let us allocate a full 14-officer tactical crime squad for the Coomera police district now. I commend the bill to the House.