



Speech by

Hon. Jarrod Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Hansard Thursday, 2 August 2012

CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT BILL



Hon. JP BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (4.21 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

I thank the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee for its timely consideration of the Criminal Law Amendment Bill 2012. I note the committee tabled its report on the bill on 6 July 2012. I now table a copy of the Queensland government response to that report.

Tabled paper: Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 3—Criminal Law Amendment Bill 2012, government response [\[666\]](#).

In its report the committee made two recommendations about the bill. Recommendation 1 is that the bill be passed and, again excitedly, the Queensland government supports wholeheartedly that recommendation. Recommendation 2 is that the Attorney-General monitor and review the consequences of this legislation on the courts and other criminal justice agencies and report to parliament within two years from commencement. The Queensland government is cognisant of the potential consequences flowing from the implementation of this bill, in particular the future impact on prisoner numbers with resulting costs to Queensland Corrective Services. Agencies involved in the criminal justice system will monitor the impact of the proposed amendments. In addition, the efficacy of the courts in delivering justice outcomes, including timeliness, is considered through the report on government services, otherwise known as ROGS. The ROGS is delivered on an annual basis and will provide a mechanism to assess changes in the timeliness of court responses to criminal matters generally. Accordingly, the Queensland government does not consider that a report back to parliament is warranted in this instant.

As I outlined at the time of the introduction of the bill into the Legislative Assembly, the bill fulfils the Queensland government's pre-election pledge that within our first 100 days of forming government we would toughen sentences for evading police, murder and serious assaults committed upon Queensland police officers. The bill also abolishes Queensland's Sentencing Advisory Council to achieve a more efficient use of public resources through the rationalisation of the law reform functions across government. The bill signifies our intention to be tough on crime and to strive to ensure that adequate punishments are being handed down by the courts for serious criminal offenders. I will have a lot more to say on the bill as the debate progresses, but at this instant I commend the bill to the House.