




Speech by

Hon. Jarrod Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Hansard Tuesday, 5 June 2012

MOTION: ORGANISED CRIME

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (5.45 pm): I move the following amendment—

That all words after 'Newman' be deleted and the following words inserted—

government has implemented an immediate crackdown on bikie gangs in Queensland in the first 100 days of governance as opposed to the previous Bligh Labor government's failure to do anything since the introduction of the Criminal Organisation Act in 2009.

It gives me an immense amount of pleasure to speak tonight in this House to this amendment in relation to the Criminal Organisation Act 2009. I did have a lot to say about the Criminal Organisation Bill when it was introduced in 2009. We then had a period of about 2½ years where nothing happened. Nothing happened! The Labor Party come in here and say that we are finally using the law. Why did those opposite not use the laws for 2½ years? I will tell honourable members who were not here why they did not use the laws, because only 11 per cent of the 51 Labor Party members spoke to their legislation—70 per cent of the opposition spoke to the legislation and guess what? Five members of the Labor Party who are in this place now who were here back then did not speak to the legislation. They did not have the conviction to stand up and speak for the Labor Party's legislation at the time. I say shame on the five members opposite.

In the words of the Leader of the Opposition, who has talked about guts today, five of them did not have the guts to stand up and fight for that legislation, but they then voted for the legislation. I will tell you why they did not speak. It was because they shared the same concerns that the Liberal National Party shared. I would hazard a guess that particularly in relation to the civil liberties issue—and I am a strong supporter of civil liberties in Queensland—the member for South Brisbane would have agreed with me. I would say that the member for South Brisbane would have agreed with the LNP opposition at the time because this was a fundamental attack on the right to associate, a fundamental attack on the rights of the individual—everything the Liberal National Party stands for.

The opposition leader stood here today and said that I made certain comments at the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General. I say to the honourable opposition leader that I was there in Canberra at the meeting, I was the government representative, and, if I could be so bold as to tell you what I actually said, I said that the Queensland government would reserve the rights of the government. Any incoming government should reserve its rights because we should, upon coming into government, take a very dim view of all policies created by the Australian Labor Party for the last 14 years. We should take with a grain of salt any of their legislation. What I actually said was that we would reserve our rights. When questioned for evidence the opposition leader hands up the *Courier-Mail*. I can remember a time in this place when the opposition leader used to accuse the former opposition of using the *Courier-Mail* as a reference. We have seen it again today.

Let me use the *Courier-Mail* and other media resources. In the *Courier-Mail* we said that we have laws but we will review them. On 25 April I said we would review Labor's criminal organisation laws and then, of course, we had the shooting. The LNP has a plan to get tough on bikie crime in Queensland—that is, we will go after unexplained wealth, we will go after illegal guns, sawn-off shotguns and pistols, and we

will go after drug traffickers in Queensland. However, those laws are not yet introduced, so the police need every available resource. At the minute, all they have is that legislation.

I do not make the application to the Supreme Court; the Police Commissioner does. The Police Commissioner makes the application to the Supreme Court. It is not the government using the laws; it is the Police Commissioner. Heaven forbid! Members opposite do not know what is in their own legislation from 2009. The LNP is the only party in Queensland that will get tough on crime and outlaw bikie gangs in Queensland. We will get rid of them.

(Time expired)