




Speech By
Hon. Jarrod Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Record of Proceedings, 15 October 2013

**CRIMINAL LAW (CRIMINAL ORGANISATIONS DISRUPTION) AMENDMENT
BILL; TATTOO PARLOURS BILL; VICIOUS LAWLESS ASSOCIATION
DISESTABLISHMENT BILL**

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (3.00 pm), in reply: The opposition leader raised a few issues. She asked: why the urgency? It is because two weeks ago 15 Bandidos bikies attended a Broadbeach cafe, threatened people and had a brawl in public. That explains the urgency for this legislation. There is no other way that we can explain clearly why this type of legislation is required urgently. Fifty Bandido bikies walked into a cafe and dragged out two people. Not only did they do that but also they intimidated police officers by attending the watch-house afterwards because a couple of the Bandidos had been taken into custody. That is why the government is acting in the way that it is. Queenslanders want action on this. Queenslanders want decisive action to deal with the criminal motorcycle gangs. Over the past two weeks we have announced a series of reforms with respect to dealing with criminal motorcycle gangs. The culmination of those announcements is in the three pieces of legislation before the House today.

The honourable opposition leader talked about not being briefed; about not having a briefing organised. I can advise her that my office has organised a briefing. The problem with the opposition leader debating this motion is that we are already two minutes into the briefing, which she is missing. We organised a briefing for three o'clock and it started a couple of minutes ago but, because of what the Leader of the Opposition has done with this motion, she is missing her briefing. We were happy to brief and we said that, in the normal course of events, once the bill is introduced into the parliament a briefing will take place. The first opportunity that we have had to brief the opposition after introducing the bill is now. I suspect the opposition leader's office is being briefed on these bills as we speak.

Let us be clear: the government has drawn a line in the sand with criminal motorcycle gangs. We are unapologetic for that. We make no apologies for our resolve to rid the state of Queensland of criminal motorcycle gangs. It is hypocrisy for the Leader of the Opposition to come in here and ask why governments rush through pieces of legislation. I can see the opposition leader smirking because she knows exactly what I am going to say. It is the smirk of guilt on the face of the opposition leader. When the Leader of the Opposition talks about rushing legislation through, I need not mention the vegetation management laws that were a dodgy deal with the Greens or the civil partnership legislation that was introduced by Andrew Fraser, the former deputy premier. I need not mention the changes to section 57 of the Criminal Code. Not only were they rushed through but also the former government recalled parliament so their corrupt mate, Gordon Nuttall, could be let off. There was a recommendation to charge and prosecute Gordon Nuttall under the Criminal Code, section 57. What the Labor Party did was to delete section 57.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I rise to a point of order: relevance?

Madam SPEAKER: Attorney-General, I ask you to stay relevant to the motion.

Mr BLEIJIE: We are talking about urgency and the opposition leader called for examples of urgency. I am using the examples of urgency—

Mr Newman interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the Premier: it was good enough for them and it is good enough now. I was talking about corrupt former minister Gordon Nuttall. Parliament was recalled and section 57 was deleted from the Criminal Code so their corrupt mate Gordon Nuttall could come back into this place as a member of parliament and not face punishment. If we are talking about urgency and debate, the opposition leader is being a bit hypocritical. Let us look at the past 20 years of Labor government rule in this state and the number of times that they brought urgent motions before the House, some of which would have been supported by the LNP in opposition and some of which were not and we were having the same debate.

This is a different issue. This is a community problem and we want the community to be part of the solution. In this state criminal motorcycle gangs are terrorising Queenslanders. They are using fear and intimidation by the bikes they ride. They are using fear and intimidation by the colours they wear and the tattoos they have. We will not stand by and allow fear and intimidation to be put into the hearts, minds and souls of Queenslanders who are the victims in the criminal motorcycle gang crime culture. We will break the culture of criminal motorcycle gangs. We will break their morale. We will crush the enterprise and we will crush the bikes. The only way we can do that effectively is to move this urgent motion to have these bills done and dusted tonight so that, by the end of this week and upon receiving Governor approval, our law enforcement agencies can go out and crush the criminal motorcycle gangs in Queensland. The only question for the Leader of the Opposition is this: does she stand on the side of Queenslanders or does she stand on the stand of bikie gangs?