




Speech By  
**Hon. Jarrod Bleijie**

**MEMBER FOR KAWANA**

---

Record of Proceedings, 15 October 2013

**WORKERS' COMPENSATION AND REHABILITATION AND OTHER  
LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (12.22 pm): I take note of the objections raised by the Manager of Opposition Business. The Manager of Opposition Business talks a lot about the committee process. This was one of the first issues that went to a parliamentary committee, and the parliamentary committee had nine months to deliberate. It then had an extension. This House gave it an extension of three months so it had a 12-month inquiry. We had nearly 300 submissions. The reason this government wants it dealt with this week is we believe there has been sufficient time for debate and scrutiny. We are simply now responding to the committee report. The parliamentary committee did a 12-month investigation and inquiry. The Manager of Opposition Business, in his own words, said there were 13 public hearings. We think there has been sufficient time for debate over the last 12 months. The government has not rushed its response. We have had the report for a few months and we have looked at it very carefully. We have taken into account the views of all sides and all issues, and we think we have the balance right. That is why we believe the government is in a position to be able to legislate now having formed the opinion—

**Mr Pitt** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I call the Attorney-General.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. If the Labor Party had its way, a government would never achieve anything in a three-year term because it would introduce legislation and everything would get bumped off to committees. We need to recognise that there have been 12 months of deliberations on this very issue by a parliamentary committee, 300 submissions and a committee report which we are now responding to. The legislative response that I tabled today is, in fact—surprise, surprise—in line with the government's response to the committee. It is no surprise. If members saw the press that I did this morning, the government's position is quite clear. We believe we have the balance right. That is why we think the processes should be in place.

The Manager of Opposition Business raised the criminal motorcycle gang legislation being introduced today. Wake up; it is no surprise. I announced two weeks ago that we would be introducing legislation. It will not be going to a committee process because we want to deal with the issue today. That is why for this particular bill it is urgent. We are going to have these laws reformed this week because we believe there has been sufficient time for all interested parties to have their say on this very important issue.