




Speech By
Hon. Jarrod Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Record of Proceedings, 15 October 2013

TATTOO PARLOURS BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (2.34 pm): I present a bill for an act to provide for the licensing and regulation of body art tattooing businesses and body art tattooists and other related matters and to amend the Liquor Act 1992 and the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 for particular purposes. I table the bill and explanatory notes.

Tabled paper: Tattoo Parlours Bill 2013 [[3739](#)].

Tabled paper: Tattoo Parlours Bill 2013, explanatory notes [[3740](#)].

I am pleased to introduce the Tattoo Parlours Bill 2013. As part of a package of measures the government is introducing to tackle organised crime in Queensland, the government has made a commitment to ban members of criminal organisations from owning, operating or working in body art tattoo parlours. The principal objective of the bill is to introduce a new occupational licensing and regulatory framework which eliminates and prevents infiltration of the Queensland tattoo industry by criminal organisations, including criminal motorcycle gangs and their associates. The act that will be created as a result of the Tattoo Parlours Bill is very similar to legislation that was recently passed in New South Wales after a number of drive-by shootings, fire bombings and violence that had occurred at tattoo parlours linked to criminal motorcycle gangs.

Under the new scheme, people will be prohibited from conducting a body art tattooing business or from performing a body art tattooing procedure, with certain limited exceptions, without the authority of a licence or permit. Licence applicants will be required to satisfy strict identification requirements and as part of the application process will be required to provide their finger and palm prints. The bill allows the Commissioner of Police to conduct investigations into licence applicants and licensees and their associates to ensure that only fit and proper persons are granted and able to hold licences and that granting a licence would not be contrary to the public interest. Unlicensed trading will result in penalties of up to 18 months imprisonment. The provisions of the bill will primarily be enforced by the Queensland Police Service. The new act will be a vital tool in ensuring that the stranglehold criminal motorcycle gangs have over the tattoo industry in Queensland is broken. The new act will commence by proclamation, with the licensing scheme commencing on 6 January 2014 and the compliance provisions to commence on 1 July 2014.

The bill also amends the Liquor Act 1992 to prohibit members of criminal motorcycle gangs from wearing or displaying material associated with criminal motorcycle gangs while in liquor licensed venues and within areas prescribed by regulation. These violent gangs use their symbols to intimidate others and without these symbols the gang members become just ordinary thugs. Preventing gang members from wearing or displaying material associated with their gang is another tool that may be used to break the gang mentality and mitigate some of the risks arising out of physical confrontations between rival gangs. The amendments to the Liquor Act 1992 will commence on assent.

A review of the provisions contained in the proposed Tattoo Parlours Act and other provisions inserted by the bill will occur three years after commencement. As part of a second phase of reforms, other acts will be amended so that licences are refused to individuals who QPS advise are members of criminal motorcycle gangs. The urgent passage of this bill is paramount to ensuring the community is protected from the activities of criminal motorcycle gangs and the streets of Queensland are once again safe for everyone. I commend this bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. JP BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (2.38 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

Question put—That the bill be now read a first time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Debate, on motion of Ms Palaszczuk, adjourned.