




Speech By
Mark Boothman

MEMBER FOR ALBERT

CRIMINAL PROCEEDS CONFISCATION (UNEXPLAINED WEALTH AND SERIOUS DRUG OFFENDER CONFISCATION ORDER) AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Albert—LNP) (9.50 pm): I rise tonight to speak on a piece of legislation long overdue in Queensland. This legislation has been demanded by the community who are sick and tired of the criminality caused by drugs in our community. Drug related crime is insidious and weaves its way into every level of society from the victims to those who profit from this most vile industry. Albert residents are actually at their wits' end when it comes to the revolving door of the legal system. They demanded action before the previous state election and the LNP gave a firm commitment that real change was on its way.

The Criminal Proceeds Confiscation (Unexplained Wealth and Serious Drug Offender Confiscation Order) Amendment Bill 2012 fulfils yet another Newman government election commitment. The voices of the residents of Albert, and many Queenslanders, have been heard loud and clear. The law-abiding residents of our great state work hard to provide for their families, to pay their mortgages, rates, electricity bills and school fees, and to put food on the table. These residents are the salt of the earth who pay their taxes and who contribute positively to our community compared to those criminal elements who do nothing more than take and disregard social standards.

I wholeheartedly agree with the Attorney-General's speech when he highlighted that serious criminal activities are often motivated by greed and the unwillingness to work hard. These individuals are not liable for taxation on profits, but their lifestyles are certainly far in excess of the ordinary Queenslanders. We need to deter criminal behaviour by hitting the hip pocket of these criminals. For too long criminals have played the system and rorted the hardworking members of our community.

Drug related crime has a massive detrimental effect on our community. We do not need to go very far to see the debilitating effects on individuals and their families. I do not think I would be incorrect in saying that these individuals who traffic in drugs are nothing more than peddlers of social demise and despair.

According to the Queensland Chief Health Officer, in 2004-05 the illicit drug trade cost Queensland \$1.6 billion. This Newman government legislation has heard what the community has been saying and is taking a hardline stance on those who profit from criminal drug related activities. Under this legislation the Supreme Court has the ability to issue a restraining order over assets such as property and seize this property under a serious drug offender confiscation order.

This legislation does not negate safeguards. To be able to make a serious drug offender confiscation order, the Supreme Court must agree that the individual in question has been issued a serious drug offence certificate. This certificate can be issued after a single drug-trafficking offence or three other types of serious drug offences within a seven-year period. Therefore, all property of this person including gifted property by the person within six years of the charge is forfeited to the state. In addition, to allow encouragement for rehabilitation, certain property can be identified as protected property. Hardship claims are also taken into account for innocent dependants. These individuals can make an application for hardship orders in respect to certain property. This bill ticks all the boxes for tougher legislation which the community has demanded. It has checks and balances, yet it is very firm in its resolve. Enough is enough when it comes to drug related crime. I commend this wonderful bill to the House.