




Speech By
Rob Molhoek

MEMBER FOR SOUTHPORT

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

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (6.24 pm): I rise in support of the Criminal Proceeds Confiscation (Unexplained Wealth and Serious Drug Offender Confiscation Order) Amendment Bill 2012—a bill that reinforces our government’s unwavering commitment to being tough on crime. I am not sure that I can add the same sort of theatre to the chamber this evening as we saw from the member for Nicklin, but I will certainly do the best I can.

Mr Bleijie: He was channelling Clive Palmer.

Mr MOLHOEK: I take that interjection from the Attorney-General. Two weeks ago I rose in this House to support a bill to introduce some of Australia’s toughest anti-hooping laws and crack down on those terrorising our roads—laws that were subsequently passed by this parliament. Last year this government also introduced legislation increasing penalties for child sex offenders and more recently new laws to target offenders who groom children online for sexual activities. Today I am proud to stand and rise in support of a bill that introduces tough new legislation targeting criminals in this state who seek to profit from illegal activity and serious drug offences. The Newman government made a promise to the people of Queensland before the election. That promise was that we would get tough on crime, and this legislation is further evidence of our commitment to deliver on this promise. This bill delivers on the LNP’s pre-election commitment to introduce unexplained wealth orders and toughen drug-trafficking laws.

At a local level on the Gold Coast and in my electorate of Southport, it is important we send this strong message to drug traffickers and other offenders who are motivated by the quick and easy tax-free financial benefits of criminal activity. These challenges are faced by law makers and police all around Australia. One does not have to look far from home to see how some of these illegal activities are played out to the significant disadvantage of our young people and families, as some of these operators function around nightclubs and some of the other less savoury venues on the Gold Coast. This legislation allows us to get tougher on gangs and groups who seek to operate in criminal networks, so it is important we continue to make it harder for these groups to carry out their illegal activities. Biekie gangs on the Gold Coast have been known to foster sophisticated networks for drug trafficking and other illegal activities. This legislation introduces a framework to allow the police, on reasonable suspicion that individuals have been involved in serious criminal activities, to demand proof of their legitimacy of all assets. This bill targets those offenders who profit from criminal activity, significantly increasing the potential risk of becoming involved in such activity or further activity. The Attorney-General has noted that would-be criminals have to consider that their involvement may end up costing not only their illegally obtained assets but importantly also their legally obtained assets. Is that a risk that they would be willing to take?

This government’s commitment to getting tough on crime is clear. Indeed one of my own priorities for the electorate of Southport is law and order, and I am proud to be part of a government that is delivering on these priorities. In Southport I have reignited the old Southport Consultative Committee—abandoned by the previous Labor member—and am now working closely with the

Southport Chamber of Commerce, the Southport police and other community groups to foster ongoing engagement with the community on a whole range of law and order issues. I am really pleased that out of our first meeting we have had some incredibly positive feedback from the many different groups represented, with almost 40 different groups turning out to the first meeting at Southport Police Station. There are also a number of very active Neighbourhood Watch groups in Southport, all of which continue to successfully liaise with the police on issues affecting local residents. At the last Neighbourhood Watch meeting I attended in Parkwood, the local police were pleased to report that there had been a significant drop in crime over the last 12 to 18 months as a result of that group's activities and its cooperation and working with the local police. Law and order issues are a priority for my constituents, and this bill affirms the LNP's commitment to getting tough on crime. There can be no excuse and nor should there be any leniency towards allowing people to function in this way. We will not tolerate criminals reaping the rewards of their illegal activities. We will not tolerate drug traffickers increasing the burden placed on our health and justice system by the illegal drug trade. We are getting tough on crime and fulfilling our pre-election commitments. I am pleased to stand in the House this evening to commend this bill to the House.