




Speech By
Trevor Watts

MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA NORTH


Record of Proceedings, 21 November 2013

**CRIMINAL LAW (CRIMINAL ORGANISATIONS DISRUPTION) AND OTHER
LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (6.27 pm): I rise to support the Criminal Law (Criminal Organisations Disruption) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013 which was referred to the legal affairs committee. I certainly thank all of my colleagues on that committee for the work that was done to ensure that we had an opportunity to ask questions of the department. I appreciate all of the staff from the department coming down here to make a submission and providing answers to our questions so that we could form our report. I certainly want to commend the members of the secretariat, who worked very hard to get the report done so that it could be considered on the time line we had before us. There are several elements to the bill. The area that I am most particularly interested in is how it affects the various licensing acts and the various licences that are available. This bill amends the Electrical Safety Act 2002, the Liquor Act 1992, the Queensland Building Services Authority Act 1991, the Racing Act 2002, the Second-hand Dealers and Pawnbrokers Act 2003, the Security Providers Act 1993, the Tow Truck Act 1973, the Weapons Act 1990 and the Work Health and Safety Act 2011.

Why do we have these acts? These acts are there so that there are particular requirements for people in these industries to be licensed. I want to be very clear what the thrust of this bill is trying to achieve. What it is trying to achieve is to make sure that Queensland is a safe place to bring up a family. It is targeting criminal organisations that might purport to get themselves licences to operate what, on the surface, seem to be legitimate businesses so they can operate them in illegal ways. The Attorney-General has been very busy, as has been our committee, with legislation, and that is because the law and order situation left in this state by Labor was soft. It certainly has been a growing problem out there and our communities want to make sure that they have a safe place to bring up their families. This is one of many bills that have been put forward to improve security for our families and to ensure that our environment in Queensland is the safest we can make it.

Sitting suspended from 6.31 pm to 7.30 pm.

 **Mr WATTS:** The primary objectives of the bill are to combat the threat of criminal motorcycle gangs to public safety and certain licensed industries and authorised activities through enhanced information sharing, licensing, interrogatory and correctional powers. We are trying to say that there is a group of people who think that it is okay to live outside the law. Hardworking people get an education, they then get a job, they work hard and they pay their taxes. Those are the people who we want to have a safe and happy life in Queensland. People who think that they can parasitically take advantage of other people through using threats of violence and intimidation have to be dealt with. That is exactly what this bill does.

I was particularly interested in hearing from the Attorney-General about one area in relation to prostitution and whether any of the provisions of this bill should be extended to that area. Other than that, I support this bill. I think these people are a parasitic mob in the community and we need to deal with them. This bill deals with them in the strongest possible way. Good, hardworking Queenslanders can have a safe and happy life here in Queensland under an LNP government as we promised that we would make Queensland the safest place to bring up children. That is exactly what we will do.