




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

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**POLICE POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND OTHER LEGISLATION
AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (8.29 pm): It is with pleasure that I rise to support the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013. I thank the minister for bringing this bill before the House. As a government, we are revitalising front-line services, we are getting Queensland back on track and, through legislation such as this, the honourable minister is improving the efficiencies not only of our great police force but also of our government. As the House would know, I am always trumpeting on about the wonderful reforms that our ministers and our government are implementing as we constantly strive to achieve a 20 per cent reduction in red tape. The Hon. Minister Dempsey brings before this House a blue-tape reform. I am looking forward to Minister's Dempsey's blue-tape reforms adding to the government's red-tape reforms that we are working so hard towards achieving. The blue-tape reforms included in this bill reflect our ongoing commitment to reducing the regulatory burden on and increasing efficiencies within the Queensland public sector. As I have stated, the state can make many savings through efficiencies and through cutting and slashing onerous burdens. In this case that will not necessarily affect small business, which I often talk about, but it will affect the hardworking men and women who make up the great Queensland Police Service, as well as the great men and women who make up the Queensland Public Service as they continually administer the legislation.

The initiatives proposed in the bill, and tonight many members tonight have talked about this, will contribute to our efforts to remove time-consuming or nonessential rules impacting operational policing efficiencies. For example, until this legislation is enacted, notices have to be given for a police officer to untangle a distressed animal. This legislation mirrors what our government is doing to get the state back on track. We are bringing common sense into legislation and we are moving with the times. This minister, his department and our government have listened to the police, such as the wonderful police officers who reside in the Nanango electorate. Many times they have spoken to us about the onerous pieces of regulation that they are required to abide by. For example, they have to place an ad in the local paper for the proposed sale of a seized vehicle. In this day and age, how ridiculous is that? I thank the minister for the proposed amendments in that regard, which will save money for every single taxpayer as there will be no need to pay for a ridiculous ad that no-one would read. We are moving with the times; people will be able to simply and efficiently access such information from the police website. Our government is about getting the state back on track.

I am very fortunate to represent the great electorate of Nanango. Through my Facebook page I have sought comments about our proposed amendments in relation to the so-called Facebook parties. I was extremely pleased with the support that I received from local residents in relation to giving the hardworking men and women of the police force more power over those out-of-control parties. In the Nanango electorate we are extremely fortunate not to have had too many such parties. As a mother, I am quite sure that my three daughters would never involve themselves in such parties. That is the mother in me speaking. However, because out-of-control parties are completely out of the

control of parents, we need to ensure that if and when such parties do take place in our good towns and cities our forces—and not only the police, but also our ambulance services and our emergency services personnel—have the ability to control the parties. For too long the good men and women of the beat have been shackled. Therefore, I am so pleased to stand here as a member of this can-do government and support this legislation.

Some of the stories we hear about Facebook parties are simply incredible. One mum wrote on my Facebook page—

It is disappointing that legislation has to be enacted to ensure basic invitation etiquette and respect. However, we are at this point and I for one would want the police to be able to assist to address out-of-control events and parties driven through social media.

I thank my constituent for saying that, because she is absolutely right. We need our hardworking men and women of the police force and our other emergency services, for example, the ambulance officers who are so often called to these parties because of the damage done by the sheer mob mentality of some of the people in attendance. That is not to say that every teenage child of Queensland acts in this way or has that mob mentality. That is not what our government is saying. Through this legislation, we are ensuring that the right people have the right ability to do the right thing.

This legislation is all about common sense. I say to young people, by all means have a party. However, the community is calling for those parties to be sensible, for the police to be able to do their job if the party gets out of hand and for the people involved to take some responsibility. Our message to the organisers of out-of-control events that turn unruly and dangerous and put other people's children, other people's mums and dads and the good people of our services in danger, is that this will no longer be tolerated. I am proud to stand here as part of a government that is concerned about reducing crime. The member for Broadwater talked about the 20 per cent reduction in crime on the Gold Coast. That is because our can-do government has made available the right resources to our wonderful Police Service.

I reiterate that we came to this election to revitalise front-line services. Minister Dempsey, his department and his hardworking police force are doing precisely that. Our can-do government is revitalising front-line services and I am proud to be part of a government that sticks by its promises. We will not stand around for 20 years doing nothing. We are a can-do government and I am proud to be a part of it. The Nanango electorate is very happy that we have taken this step towards reducing crime.