




Speech By
Hon. Jarrod Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Record of Proceedings, 12 February 2014

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Department of Justice and Attorney-General

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (2.18 pm): This government is working hard to make Queensland a safer place, reduce unnecessary red tape for Queenslanders and increase access to justice through the granting of funding assistance to important front-line services. I would like to take the opportunity to inform the House of some of the commitments that have been delivered within the Department of Justice and Attorney-General and also to talk about the great opportunities presented to us in 2014.

In the area of crime and youth justice, the government has cracked down on members of organised crime groups through the Newman government's tough criminal laws. We have introduced mandatory life imprisonment for repeat child sex offenders with a minimum non-parole period of 20 years—that is our two-strike policy. We have passed tough new drug offender laws and introduced the youth boot camp trials in four locations. We recently introduced amendments to the youth justice legislation to make sure young people take responsibility for their actions but also to make sure that we put a new direction in the path of these young people so that they do not want to commit crimes against persons or property in this state. In the coming months the government will be releasing our blueprint for the future of youth justice to transform Queensland's youth justice system into one that leads the nation. We have also announced that Queensland's sex offender laws will be reviewed, focusing on the Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act. I will also be introducing a tough new mandatory penalty for sex offenders who tamper with their GPS tracking devices.

As part of the government's commitment to improve access to justice and to revitalise front-line services for all Queenslanders, we have provided support to a number of organisations that deliver vital services in our community. An additional \$2 million over four years has been allocated to organisations that support victims of crime. This is about putting the victims first. I am talking about organisations like Bravehearts. We have also allocated an additional \$750,000 over three years to the Women's Legal Service which has just introduced the Rural Women's Legal Service Hotline where rural women can now get free legal advice from the Women's Legal Service. We have also introduced JP reforms. We have refocused Justices of the Peace in Queensland and I can assure members that the thousands of JPs that I have seen across the state in the last 12 months to two years are appreciative of the fact that we have put them in the courtrooms deciding matters of justice.

In terms of reducing unnecessary red tape for Queenslanders, I am glad to say that the Department of Justice and Attorney-General is leading the way in this state. We have amended the workers compensation scheme to ensure that we have the best scheme in Australia in terms of workers and employers. We have reduced red tape for community clubs in terms of liquor licensing laws in the state. The Treasurer did not hear my statement before so I will repeat it: the Department of Justice and Attorney-General has been the leading department in terms of red-tape reduction in this great state of Queensland. We have moved to stamp out unlawful industrial action and we have

returned the rule of law to construction sites by establishing the Building and Construction Compliance Branch. We have introduced accountability measures for industrial organisations. We did that 12 months ago. It is time that we reflect on that in terms of an impending royal commission.

We have reduced red tape for business in Queensland by slashing directors' liability from over \$3,800 to less than \$100—real red-tape reduction. We have removed 44 barriers for tourism businesses in this state and introduced four bills to split the Property Agents and Motor Dealers Act 2000 which contains dozens of red-tape reductions. A few nights ago the honourable Premier and I attended an REIQ dinner. To understand the REIQ's appreciation and enthusiasm for our reforms one only had to attend that dinner. There was great representation from around the state. The Premier made a speech and talked about the forms we are getting rid of for real estate agents.

Finally, last year this government engaged the Queensland University of Technology to conduct a review of property law within the state of Queensland. Today I am pleased to announce the release of the first two issues papers for public consultation. Issues paper 1 examines current seller disclosure requirements and issues paper 2 deals with the complex issues concerning the setting and adjustment of contribution schedule lot entitlements under the Body Corporate and Community Management Act. The Gold Coast members will be very pleased about that. Two further papers will be released for consultation in the second half of 2014. Issues paper 3 will seek industry and community feedback on issues concerning the Property Law Act, while issues paper 4 will be about body corporate governance issues under the body corporate legislation. Today's announcement further demonstrates the government's commitment to delivering real improvements for Queensland's property and construction industries.

On that note I table the Queensland Government Property Law Review Issues Paper 1: Seller disclosure in Queensland, and I also table the Queensland Government Property Law Review Issues Paper 2: Lot entitlements under the Body Corporate and Community Management Act 1997. This is going to be a great year for Queenslanders where everything comes together and it will be the same for the Department of Justice and Attorney-General.

Tabled paper: Commercial and Property Law Research Centre: Queensland Government Property Law Review Issues Paper 1—*Seller Disclosure in Queensland*, February 2014 [\[4489\]](#).

Tabled paper: Commercial and Property Law Research Centre: Queensland Government Property Law Review Issues Paper 2—*Lot entitlements under the Body Corporate and Community Management Act 1997*, February 2014 [\[4490\]](#).