




Speech By  
**Hon. Jarrod Bleijie**

**MEMBER FOR KAWANA**

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Record of Proceedings, 4 March 2014

**MOTION: NEWMAN GOVERNMENT, ANTICRIME GANG LAWS**

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (5.46 pm): I move the following amendment—

That all words after 'anticrime gang laws' be deleted and the following words inserted:  
are working and are helping to combat crime and unlawful activity in Queensland.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the debate from the Leader of the Opposition and the shadow police minister, who, I would suspect, if Queenslanders were viewing his performance they would have no idea that he in fact is the shadow police minister, because this is one shadow police minister who actually does not support the Police Service in this state. Let me deal with a few of the issues relating to the laws and then we will get to the crux of the debate with the opposition leader, because the opposition leader raised some interesting issues. In September last year 50 Bandidos walked down Broadbeach Mall and in front of families and tourists started a brawl.

**Ms Trad** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I am not taking interjections from the member for South Brisbane; I am talking about a serious matter. There were women and children dining at Broadbeach who suffered as a result of 50 Bandidos coming to Broadbeach and starting a full riot. That is when the government drew the line in the sand and said that enough is enough. We make it clear that we want to rid the state of Queensland of criminal gangs. It is a shame the opposition does not agree with that. While we are on the subject of the opposition, let us look at where it stands on this issue, because I am as confused as a scrambled egg as to where the opposition actually sits on this issue. We introduced the laws and it voted for them. It supported the laws. That was fine. The next day the opposition leader gave a press conference and said that she had some concerns about the laws. We then brought a second tranche of reforms in. It then supported the laws.

**A government member:** Did they amend them?

**Mr BLEIJIE:** No, it did not amend them; it supported them. Then it came out and opposed the laws but would not repeal them. Colleagues may remember an article in the *Courier-Mail* headed 'ALP leader says VLAD laws are no good but she won't repeal them'. So those opposite said, 'They're no good but we're not going to get rid of them.' Then the opposition leader said, 'Let's have a parliamentary inquiry.' Then it went from a parliamentary inquiry to a judicial inquiry. Then today we have a motion on the books from the Leader of the Opposition and now it is back to a parliamentary inquiry, which is what this motion refers to. I guess those opposite have had seven positions for each member over there, but—lo and behold—because the new member was sworn in today they had to come up with an eighth position on the laws and they now say that they will repeal the laws.

So now, finally, they have said that they will repeal the laws, but that they are going to have a judicial inquiry into the laws. There has just been this cog of change of position because they do not know where they stand. They have no ethics and accountability on this issue. Let me refer to the

*Courier-Mail* editorial of only a week ago. I am sure the opposition leader's staffers would refer to this. It states—

In short, the legislation is doing what it is designed to do, and that is to disempower organised criminal gangs, cripple their ability to organise, and ensure that gang members who choose to adopt a misguided "code of silence" in relation to suspected criminal activity face the most punitive of punishments.

...

The local Hells Angels chapter, down to two men while their president is overseas, can no longer even muster enough members to break the anti-association laws ...

Finally, the editorial states—

Given that commitment, and a community expectation that what is now on the statute books will not be applied in an overly zealous fashion, then the early successes of the drive to break criminal bike gangs and extend the push to paedophile rings is deserving of support.

Unfortunately, they are not deserving of support by the opposition leader, who has had about nine or 10 positions on this issue. The opposition says that the best way is the legislation that Labor introduced. She said they were the toughest laws in the country. It is no good having the toughest laws in the country if they are never used. Anyone can bring in the toughest laws in a country, but unless they are used they are no good. Unless you take these criminal gangs off the street, unless you are protecting the women and children in this state, then it is no good standing up in here and saying, 'We have the toughest laws. We just hope no-one uses them. We just hope they do not get used.' The fact is that they never used the laws. They introduced the laws in 2009. How many criminals gangs have been declared under that Labor Party legislation? Zero! No gangs have been declared under the Labor Party legislation. But they want to repeal what we have done. They want to go back to 2009 when criminal gangs flourished in the state under the Labor Party. We do not accept that. Criminal gangs will not flourish under this government.

*(Time expired)*