



Speech By  
**Hon. Jarrod Bleijie**


**MEMBER FOR KAWANA**

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Record of Proceedings, 27 November 2014

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Newman Government, Law and Order

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (9.50 am): The Newman LNP government went to the 2012 election with a strong plan to deliver a stronger Queensland. Our strong team has been busy working to fix the chaos and mess left by the Labor Party. We have been working hard to ensure that Queensland is the safest place to raise a family, increase access to justice, improve front-line services and reduce unnecessary red tape. But the work is not yet complete. Let us take a step back and look at what we inherited. Labor failed to deal with crime in the community and criminal organisations, resulting in Queensland becoming a haven for organised crime. In fact, Labor's weak criminal organisation legislation proved to be completely ineffective. Labor failed victims and their families by refusing to take a strong stance against sex offenders, created a revolving door of youth detention for young offenders through its continual soft-on-crime approach, failed to address low court clearance rates and delays and ignored central and northern Queenslanders. What did Labor do? It increased court costs, increased red tape for consumers and businesses and uncertainty and duplication for community legal centres. Why? Why did it fail to deal with these important issues? Because it had no plan. Labor had no plan in government, it has no plan in opposition and no strategy in opposition. Unlike those opposite, we have a strong team—a united team with a strong plan to deliver for Queenslanders. The LNP government has taken and will continue to take strong action on crime and increase access to justice for Queenslanders.

If we look at some of the laws that we have introduced in the last 12 to 18 months, we have introduced the strongest criminal reforms against organised crime which were upheld recently by the High Court. Yesterday I tabled some documents and I have one more to table this morning, and I only have to read the headline and a paragraph—

Qld bikie laws appealing: SA govt

Attorney-General John Rau says he's keen to follow Queensland's lead in giving parliament the power to declare criminal organisations. ...

This is what John Rau, the Labor South Australian Attorney, said about Queensland's criminal laws—

We'd be crazy not to take advantage of that and make some modifications to our laws.

I table a copy of that article.

*Tabled paper:* Article from AAP, dated 14 November 2014, titled 'Qld Bikie Laws appealing: SA Govt' [\[6622\]](#).

As I said, we will continue to take a strong stance against criminal organisations with the support not of the Queensland Labor Party but the South Australian Labor Party.

We have introduced child sex offender reforms, including the two-strike policy and the new offence of grooming children. We have introduced youth justice reforms specifically targeting repeat

offenders, including the youth boot camp trial. Although the member for Rockhampton's rhetoric is opposing it, I want to thank him because he recently gave a donation to the PCYC in Rockhampton which allowed seven young individuals in the boot camp program to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh's excellence awards because of the leadership that they showed during boot camp. So I do thank the member for Rockhampton for his support of the program. We have undertaken a review of Queensland's sex offender laws, introduced mandatory penalties for sex offenders who tamper with their GPS tracking devices and we have introduced new animal cruelty offences into the Criminal Code with a penalty of seven years. We have appointed an additional full-time Central Coroner in Mackay—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Order, members! I will now start warning members under the standing orders if they keep interjecting. I call the minister.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** The LNP Newman government cares about Central Queensland and North Queensland and our regions. We have appointed an additional full-time Central Coroner in Mackay to enable the full-time Coroner model to be extended state-wide. We have appointed three additional magistrates, resulting in the Magistrates Court more adequately managing workloads. We have recently appointed an additional judge for the District Court in Cairns. We have appointed the JP QCAT trial which has halved the time from six to 3.2 weeks. We have done record digitisation projects in Births, Deaths and Marriages. We have given millions of dollars to victims of crime, Women's Legal Service and other groups. We will continue to reform the red-tape-reduction strategy. We have continued to listen to Queenslanders and build on the action we have already taken.

We have returned Queensland's workers compensation scheme to the best in Australia. We have provided relief to businesses of 17 per cent on average and provided workers with the best scheme in Australia. We have slashed directors liability. We have made sure that 6,500 community groups no longer have to fill out community liquor permits. We have streamlined the community grant process. We have reformed the property laws. Come 1 December, there will be a 44 per cent reduction to buy and sell property in Queensland—a reduction in red tape. We have commenced a review of the QUT review of property laws in Queensland. The work is not done, but only the strong LNP team has a plan for Queenslanders: it is a strong plan to provide a bright future, a stronger Queensland, and we are listening.