




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszcuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Record of Proceedings, 27 March 2015

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Organised Crime, Commission of Inquiry

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.39 am): During the election campaign we outlined our plan to tackle all organised crime in Queensland, not just crime committed by criminals who ride motorcycles. That is why one of our key election commitments was to establish a commission of inquiry to investigate all organised crime in Queensland. Today I am pleased to announce that former deputy director-general of public prosecutions, Michael Byrne QC, will lead this inquiry. Mr Byrne is a respected legal mind who carries a wealth of experience. As a leading Queensland criminal barrister, he is well qualified to lead the commission that will delve into organised crime and the broader issues that allow it to occur.

We said during the election campaign that we would conduct an inquiry and target all organised crime. That is exactly what this government is doing. We are serious about tackling organised crime in Queensland, and that is why the inquiry will have all the powers of a commission of inquiry. It will be able to compel witnesses to give evidence about their involvement in organised crime and reveal their knowledge of organised crime. The commission will also be able to compel people to reveal the names of other organised crime figures known to them and the extent of the involvement in organised crime of those people.

The commission will leave no stone unturned. Drug trafficking, extortion, violence, standover tactics, child sex offences and other forms of organised crime will be all under the spotlight of this far-reaching inquiry. That is because this government has zero tolerance for all organised crime, and we give our full support to law enforcement in dealing with it. The commission of inquiry will report back to the government by October this year. I table the full terms of reference of the commission of inquiry for the benefit of the House.

Tabled paper. Commission of Inquiry Order (No. 1) 2015 [\[208\]](#).