




Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Record of Proceedings, 3 June 2015

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Vicious Lawless Associates Legislation

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (2.59 pm): Late in 2013 the former LNP government introduced what many have described as the strongest laws in the country dealing with criminal gangs. We are not only talking about criminal motorcycle gangs but also talking about criminal organisations, the underworld and also paedophile rings right across the state. I am pleased to advise the House today that the court has convicted the first person under the VLAD legislation, and was this person a motorcycle gang member? No. This person was a drug trafficker. The police minister and the Attorney-General stood in this place before saying, 'We're going to review these laws. We're going to have workable laws that don't just target motorcycle gang members.' Well, guess what? The first person convicted under the vicious lawless associates legislation was a drug trafficker and we are talking about some \$16 million in drugs. I feel confident that kids in Queensland can sleep tonight knowing that this man is behind bars for a long period of time.

We had all the rhetoric at the time and we had all the flip-flopping by the Labor Party. Do you remember that they supported the laws, then they opposed the laws, then they were going to review the laws, then they were going to get rid of the laws? What we have seen today is that the laws clearly work. At the time, the Labor Party said that they opposed the laws because of the mandatory sentence; they said they were against mandatory sentences, although they voted for the laws to start with. We put a protection in there that, if the offender cooperates with the police and it leads to valuable information for police enforcement, the judge can reduce the sentence and the judge retains the discretion. I can advise the House that in the case today the judge reduced the sentence from 15 years to five years because of cooperation with the police. The police sought information from this person because they could not establish the evidence so the laws are working. We have this royal commission happening at the moment for laws that the Labor Party say are not working, but clearly they are working. If the Labor Party want to know about laws that do not work, they should go back to 2009 when they introduced the Criminal Organisation Act. It was used once—and unsuccessfully used, I might add.

I will tell the House which Labor Party is using the laws that we introduced. I refer to a press release issued by the Deputy Premier of South Australia, Mr John Rau, from the Labor government in South Australia, titled 'Tough new laws to target organised crime gangs', which is dated 3 March 2015—only a month or two ago. He said—

South Australia will adopt strong ... laws targeting criminal organisations—
wait for this—

following the success of similar laws interstate.

He then said—

The new laws will also create an offence for a gang member to enter a place or event that has been banned by serious and organised crime regulations.

It gets better, because today we have had the South Australian Labor government declaring 30 outlaw gangs as criminal organisations under their new laws. That is more criminal organisations declared under the South Australian Labor government than under the LNP government. I table a copy of that and I table a copy of the press release.

Tabled paper: Media release, dated 3 March 2015, by South Australian Deputy Premier, Attorney-General and Minister for Justice Reform relating to South Australia's new laws targeting criminal organisations [\[513\]](#).

Tabled paper: Screen shot of Channel 9 News Twitter relating to South Australian government declaration of outlaw bikie gangs as criminal organisations [\[514\]](#).

The Labor Party have to get serious about organised crime in this state. We put the laws in place. I will congratulate them if they can keep the laws in place because the laws are working—so says the South Australian Labor government.