




Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Record of Proceedings, 11 November 2015

COUNTER-TERRORISM AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (7.52 pm): The opposition will not be opposing the bill. This is an extension of a 10-year sunset clause which expires in the middle of December. What I am surprised at is the Minister for Police talking very much about how the government wants to keep Queenslanders absolutely safe. We are in the second-last sitting of the year and the government realised at the last minute that this legislation had to be pushed through, so it introduced it not that long ago. I would submit to the minister that for the last 10 years the legislation was always going to expire in the middle of December so the minister could have, at any stage in the last eight months whilst they were in government, put this through without pushing it through in the second last sitting week.

We know this legislation was as a result of terrorist bombings around London in 2005. All Australian states and territories combined their terrorist legislation to ensure that the preventative detention regime was in place. It means that people can be detained for a short period of time if there was the imminent threat of terrorist activities against Queensland citizens. All jurisdictions around Australia are debating and introducing these laws. I note the comments from Premier Mike Baird and the federal Attorney-General George Brandis with respect to lowering the age of the preventative detention in terms of to whom it applies. This legislation says 16 years of age. Mike Baird, the Premier of New South Wales, is advocating for 14 years of age. Can the minister indicate whether the government considered below 16 years of age for preventative detention, particularly in light of the incident in our southern states where it was a 15-year-old who committed the terrorist activity?

The opposition will not be opposing the legislation. The opposition supports the committee recommendations. The opposition supports the amendments moved by the minister. As the minister said, in this House we always must make sure that there is legislation in place to protect citizens, particularly in this new global environment of terrorism and Isis and the atrocities that these sick individuals are committing against not only Australians but other people around the world. The opposition has no objection to this bill and will be voting for it.