




Speech By  
**Joan Pease**

**MEMBER FOR LYTTON**

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### **COUNTER-TERRORISM AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (9.06 pm): I rise to speak to the Counter-Terrorism and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015. Every government and every parliament, state or federal, is charged with upholding the safety and security of its constituents. The Queensland Police Service has a wide variety of powers under various pieces of legislation in recognition of its longstanding presence in the state and its integral role in counterterrorism.

In 2005 the 51st Parliament of Queensland deliberated extensively over the Terrorism (Preventative Detention) Bill 2005. Former members rightly provided extensive commentary on the active provisions of the legislation. The legislation was a product of its time and was introduced by the former premier Peter Beattie as part of the first group of Australia's counterterrorism legislation. Unfortunately, in the 10 years since that debate the nation's exposure to terrorism has sadly increased. Critical trends have begun to emerge that are challenging governments and law enforcement and security agencies around the world, and Queensland does not stand alone in facing these challenges.

Since September 2014, nationally there have been three terrorist attacks and a further six planned attacks disrupted by authorities. While the threat of large-scale mass casualty and infrastructure attacks remains, there is also an increasing threat of low-tech and lone-actor terrorist attacks. This reflects the best available advice of the Queensland Police Service and other security agencies. We cannot be blind to these threats.

The Terrorism (Preventative Detention) Act is set to expire at midnight on 16 December 2015. It is imperative that this bill be passed in order to preserve the current arrangements. This bill will provide the policy and legislative backing that police and emergency services require to perform their most difficult duty: stopping political violence that cuts at the heart of our community. I express my support for the bill and the maintenance of the powers contained in the 2005 act. I understand that the bill also incorporates technical amendments to ensure that interagency arrangements for related public safety legislation will continue to function.

This bill represents a continuation of Queensland's preventative detention regime. As the minister has advised, the bill will be amended to require the review to occur within two years of the extension of the sunset clause, with a report required to be tabled in the Legislative Assembly within three years. The minister has also advised that the bill will be amended to require the minister to provide a report to parliament within six months of the use of powers under the Terrorism (Preventative Detention) Act. This is a significant mechanism. Members of the House are rightly concerned that ordinary citizens of our state should not be subject to undue coercion. The parliament is a powerful sovereign body and provides an important oversight function, and this provision enhances this oversight function.

I commend the committee for its thorough examination of the bill, and I thank the Queensland Police Service and all of our law enforcement agencies for the role they play in upholding rights and building safer and better integrated communities. I commend the bill to the House.