



Speech By  
**Hon. Yvette D'Ath**


**MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE**

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Record of Proceedings, 27 March 2015

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Organised Crime

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (9.51 am): Mr Speaker, as you were not in the chair last night when I was speaking, may I take this opportunity to congratulate you on your appointment as Speaker. I know you will uphold the best of the traditions of this great place.

I rise to inform the House about this government's priorities in tackling organised crime in this state. One of the key priorities for me as Attorney-General and for this government is our commitment to reviewing and addressing organised crime in Queensland. Unlike the former government, I will make sure that there is proper consultation on our legislation and our approach on this issue. During the debate of the previous legislation, now Premier Palaszczuk, then as opposition leader, voiced her strong concerns that the legislation was rushed through with no opportunity for the legal profession, policy experts or the public to have a say about the new laws.

To understand the consultative approach that I wish to take, it is useful to consider the brief history on how this issue has evolved. The Criminal Law (Criminal Organisations Disruption) Amendment Act 2013, the Criminal Code (Criminal Organisations) Regulation 2013, the Tattoo Parlours Act 2013 and the Vicious Lawless Association Disestablishment Act 2013 were introduced as bills in the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 15 October 2013. The bills in total amounted to over 160 pages of new law. The former government used standing order 137 to declare the bills as urgent so that they could be passed that same day and treated as cognate bills for the purpose of the debate. The bills were introduced at 2.30 pm, the opposition was briefed on the bills at 3 pm and just over 4½ hours later the cognate debate began in the Legislative Assembly at 7.41 pm. The legislation was passed overnight at 2.50 in the morning. Premier Palaszczuk, as she is now, expressed the view that Queenslanders would expect the government to do better, and I assure you that this government will do better.

I have already spoken to representatives of the profession and I am inviting formal nominations for the high-level task force that this government has committed to creating which will review those 2013 organised crime laws. The high-level task force will consist of representatives of the Police Service, the Queensland Law Society, the Bar Association of Queensland, the Queensland Police Union and representatives of other relevant government agencies. The task force will be asked to advise whether the legislation is effectively facilitating the successful prevention and investigation of organised crime and the successful prosecution of individuals.

Importantly, the task force will advise how the legislation might best be amended, improved or replaced to ensure that we are targeting organised crime across the state. The task force will be asked to report back to the government by December 2015 about how any recommendations might best be implemented. In addition to reviewing the previous legislation, the task force will be asked to develop the government's proposed new offence of 'serious organised crime'. As the Premier has

also outlined this morning, as well as creating the task force, this government is establishing a commission of inquiry into organised crime which will inquire into the extent, nature and societal impacts of organised crime in Queensland. I am looking forward to working with the legal profession, law enforcement agencies and my ministerial colleagues to tackle organised crime. We are committed to consulting widely and we are determined to get these laws right. We will do what the LNP failed to do—properly consult to provide safety for Queenslanders and faith in our system of justice.