




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Record of Proceedings, 30 August 2016

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Serious Organised Crime Legislation

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.52 am): My government is committed to keeping Queenslanders safe. When the parliament last sat, we secured support for new laws to give our police additional powers to protect Queenslanders amid ongoing terrorism threats around the world. My government has committed extra resources and restored services to the frontline, including an additional 266 police officers. We have restored community policing boards to give local communities input into how we tackle crime and the causes of crime. Consistent with our commitments to addressing serious organized crime, we instigated the Queensland Organised Crime Commission of Inquiry and established a high-level task force to oversee the review of the VLAD laws. The commission's findings and the task force report showed that Queensland needs robust and enforceable laws to address serious organised crime, including child exploitation, boiler room fraud and outlaw motorcycle gangs.

Today, the Attorney-General, the police minister and I are outlining our response and the serious and organised crime amendment bill that will be introduced next sitting week. We have accepted the advice of the commission to do more to tackle the scourge of illicit drugs and the horrific crimes of child sexual exploitation. Through these proposed laws, we will introduce tough new offences to tackle serious organised crime. We will give our police and prosecutors the laws they need. We will increase penalties for existing offences and write into our laws tough penalties for new offences.

In terms of child exploitation material, these laws will establish new offences that will apply to people who: (1) administer child exploitation websites; (2) encourage the use of child exploitation websites; and (3) provide advice on how to avoid detection in gaining access to child exploitation websites. The maximum penalty for child exploitation offences will be increased from 14 to 20 years. We will also provide powers for police to seek an order in a search warrant to require a person to provide passwords and information to allow access to electronically stored information.

In terms of illicit drugs, these laws will increase maximum penalties for trafficking. The maximum penalty for trafficking dangerous drugs will increase from 20 years to 25 years. In addition, we will establish a new post-conviction organised crime control order. It will be a new sentencing order for Queensland. This is an Australian first; no other Australian jurisdiction has an organised crime control order as part of its sentencing laws. I repeat: it will be a first for Australia.

The court can set any conditions necessary to protect the public by preventing, disrupting and restricting offenders convicted of the new serious organised crime circumstance of aggravation, offenders convicted of the new consorting offence and offenders found by the court to be participants in criminal organisations. This could mean restricting the access that a convicted child sex offender, who is part of a paedophile network, has to internet access or camera equipped devices or how close

to schools they are allowed to go; preventing convicted fraudsters, who are involved in sophisticated boiler room frauds, from registering certain types of businesses; and preventing a convicted drug trafficker, who is part of a drug syndicate, from meeting with or speaking to their drug associates.

These laws will be comprehensive. These laws will be robust. These laws will be enforceable. They will ensure the offenders are punished and the community is safe. Queenslanders can have confidence in these laws because we have developed them in consultation with stakeholders and following a commission of inquiry and a task force review. We have not rushed them through the parliament in the dead of night and we will commit them to full parliamentary scrutiny, as the public expects us to do. My government makes no apologies for tough laws on serious organised crime. Australia needs a coordinated approach and I am determined to work with my interstate colleagues and the Prime Minister of this country to ensure that we have a tough and workable approach to serious organized crime throughout our nation.