




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Serious and Organised Crime

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.46 am): Later today the Attorney-General will introduce the Serious and Organised Crime Legislation Amendment Bill. These laws will be the most comprehensive organised crime laws in the country, and they will focus on all forms of organised crime, not just one. We will do more to tackle the problems of illicit drugs and the horrific crimes of child exploitation. We will increase penalties for existing offences and write into our laws tough penalties for new offences. The maximum penalty for child exploitation offences will be increased from 14 years to 20 years. The maximum penalty for trafficking dangerous drugs will increase from 20 years to 25 years.

Through these proposed laws, we will introduce new offences. We will give our police and prosecutors the laws they need. 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. We will ban the practice of wearing gang colours in public, taking the fear and intimidation off our streets.

These laws will go to a committee. These laws will be scrutinised by the parliament, by stakeholders and by the public, as they should be. I also want to make sure this issue is discussed at a national level. Organised crime syndicates do not care which state they are committing their crimes in, which is why I will work with other state premiers and the Prime Minister to see some legislative uniformity across the country.

I want to see organised crime gangs driven out of Queensland, but I do not want to see them pop up in another state. I want to see organised crime gangs driven out of the country altogether. There is already some level of consistency between the laws in New South Wales and the laws I propose for Queensland, but without a consistent national approach I fear we will simply see the gangs establish themselves in other jurisdictions. We have seen a coordinated national approach when it comes to counterterrorism, as I outlined previously. I think now it is time to see a similar approach taken to serious organised crime, which is why I look forward to discussing it at the next COAG meeting.