




Speech By  
**Joan Pease**

**MEMBER FOR LYTTON**

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## **PUBLIC SAFETY BUSINESS AGENCY AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (3.54 pm): Today I rise to speak to the Public Safety Business Agency and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. It is often said that an army marches on its feet. The supply lines are critical and back-end support makes the front line function. This bill provides that support. It buttresses the individual courage and dedication of our police officers, firefighters and volunteers. This legislation represents the next step in the evolution of the Public Safety Business Agency, the Queensland Police Service and the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services. It is a reform that was conceived on the front line for the benefit of the front line and, by extension, a benefit to the people of Queensland.

Mr Deputy Speaker Furner, let me give you a brief history of the legislation, even though you are probably very well aware of it. The former government undertook a wideranging review of the then department of community safety service and Queensland's police and emergency services agencies. This review made a number of recommendations. The then government adopted them in its own way. I note that even Mr Keelty had severe reservations about their implementation and these reservations were shared by front-line officers, senior officers and support staff around the state. During the 2015 election campaign our government made an undertaking for an official review of the PSBA. Following the election, this commitment was met through the Public Service Commission conducting a review overseen by a cross-agency steering committee which involved extensive consultation. On 17 February 2016 the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services tabled the *Review of the Public Safety Business Agency* report and then the Public Safety Business Agency and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 was introduced and referred to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee.

I want to take a moment to thank the secretariat for its professionalism and the chair, Mr Mark Furner, the member for Ferny Grove, and other committees members for their work on this important issue. The committee invited submissions and two were received—one from the Queensland Police Commissioned Officers' Union of Employees and one from the United Firefighters' Union of Queensland. The committee also received briefings on the bill from the PSBA, the Queensland Police Service and the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services. I thank those who provided written submissions and those who provided information to assist the committee during the review. Our committee, including government and non-government members, recommended that the bill be passed, and that was the one recommendation, which was a sensible response to a responsible bill. However, it seems that the non-government members have been overruled and their sensible approach to this bill has been ignored. Today we bring this process to fruition because we are a sensible government.

I want to acknowledge the hard work of the public servants who toiled within the PSBA in recent years. This bill is no reflection on them or their efforts. This bill also represents an opportunity. The Queensland Police Service is a large organisation at a unique point in its history. We are on the cusp

of a new and exciting policing era. Community demand and expectations are high and growing. The mandate for police involvement in new areas like disaster management is also increasing. Technology and broader economic conditions are transformative. The service needs structures that support this change. The Queensland Fire and Emergency Services is similarly changing, with an ambitious cultural change agenda and an increasing role in hazard mitigation. I support any initiative that supports our hardworking police, fire and emergency services and therefore support the bill. I commend the Public Safety Business Agency and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 to the House.