



Speech By
Mark Furner

MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE

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LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Mr FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (11.32 am): I move—

That the House take note of report No. 18 of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee tabled on 15 December 2015.

I am pleased this morning to be able to stand in the chamber and report to the House in respect of report No. 18 as chair of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee on the oversight of the Criminal Organisation Public Interest Monitor. One of the things that we, as members of that committee, are fortunate to do is to communicate and to get an understanding of this important aspect. I must say that every member of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee takes a very important focus and interest in this particular area of examining the Criminal Organisation Public Interest Monitor, COPIM.

This report provided information regarding the performance of the COPIM and his functions under the Criminal Organisation Act 2009. In respect of the hearing that the committee had on 11 November 2015, Mr Michael Halliday, the COPIM, appeared before the committee. The committee reviewed the COPIM annual's report 2014-15, which was tabled in this House on 29 September last year.

Once again, I would like to thank the COPIM. I would also like to thank the members of the committee for their interest in the opportunity to hear from the COPIM on this particular report. I would also like to thank the research officer at the time, Bernice Watson, who has moved on to greater opportunities in this place and is sadly missed by the members of the committee, for her detailed assistance and performance in regard to putting these reports together and for providing the committee with the opportunity to avail itself to do many examinations not only for this report but for all of the other reports the committee is involved in throughout the course of the year.

In relation to the COPIM's functions as detailed in the report, the Criminal Organisation Act provides for the making of declarations and orders by the Queensland Supreme Court, for the purpose of disrupting and restricting the activities of organisations involved in serious criminal activities, including outlawed meetings of criminal gangs. It is a scenario that I take particular interest in. Previously in my past career as deputy chair of the law enforcement committee, a joint committee of both the Senate and the lower house in Canberra, I examined many details of law enforcement agencies throughout the country. It is great to have the opportunity to be chair of this committee and to come to this House with that experience and with a complete understanding of the effects of law enforcement and the importance of hearing from the likes of the COPIM and other agencies as to why we need to make sure as a community we protect our citizens throughout this great state of Queensland and also, as I experienced, throughout the nation. I am pleased to have that opportunity to bring across my experience from my past career and to be involved in this particular committee as the chair of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee.

The objects of the act are, as I indicated, to disrupt and limit the activities of those organisations involved in serious criminal activities, including their members and associates. Under the act, the Supreme Court can, upon application by the Commissioner of Police, make various orders. Those orders may include the following: an order declaring an organisation to be a 'criminal organisation'; members and associates of declared criminal organisations will be liable to have control orders imposed on them; a public safety order, for any period it considers necessary but no longer than six months, prohibiting an individual or group from entering a premises, specified area or attending an event; and also fortification removal orders requiring an individual or organisation to modify or remove fortifications from particular premises.

As you can see, Mr Deputy Speaker, there are a broad range of opportunities for the COPIM to examine the activities of criminal organisations, their members and associates. In conclusion, it is a pleasure to stand in the chamber to be able to talk on this report.