




Speech By  
**Mark Furner**

**MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE**

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**MOTION: ORGANISED CRIME**

 **Mr FURNER** (Ferry Grove—ALP) (4.41 pm): I rise to speak in support of the amendment. Eighteen months ago the Palaszczuk government was elected on the basis of a commitment to keep Queenslanders safe. Our state budget delivers on that commitment with an additional \$39.1 million over four years for the Queensland Police Service to specifically target serious organised crime. We are also delivering an additional \$5 million each year for four years for police to target organised crime, alcohol fuelled violence and ice. The Premier also announced \$3.2 million for Taskforce Orion to specifically target online sharing of child exploitation material. These combined funds deliver a further boost to police resources and give our law enforcement agencies the tools and technology they need to tackle organised crime in all its forms.

Police have been relentless in targeting serious organised crime, and they will continue to exploit every opportunity to target criminal activities—anywhere, anytime. Taskforce Maxima continues to operate against the organised crime activities of outlaw motorcycle gangs and other organised crime syndicates. It has never stopped. Officers with specific skills are assigned to Taskforce Maxima. The number of officers on the task force varies according to operational needs. This flexibility and agility means the officers can be deployed to any part of Queensland to target serious organised crime, should the need arise. That is why it is a nonsense for those opposite to link task force numbers with results. It reflects a complete lack of understanding of contemporary policing practices and the combined might of police resources.

What we see time and time again from this inept opposition is a persistence to mix policing with politics. It got them into trouble in the Bjelke-Petersen era, it got them into trouble in the Borbidge era and the Newman era, and it will get them into trouble again. They have not learned the lessons of the past. The LNP has never understood or respected the doctrine of the separation of powers. Any decisions about where to dispatch police officers in Queensland should be made by police, not politicians. It is the government's role to ensure police have the resources they need, and that is exactly what the Palaszczuk government is doing. Some 2,200 new body worn video cameras are being rolled out across the state. That is over and above the 500 we have already provided to police on the front line.

Police remain resolute in their pursuit of crime gangs and all forms of serious organised crime. Since Taskforce Maxima began, more than \$17.5 million in cash and assets have been seized or restrained. Recent arrests and charges reinforce the government's resolve and that of the Queensland Police Service. The results are on the table. The Palaszczuk government backs police efforts every step of the way. We said that our new serious organised crime laws would be the toughest in the country, and they will be. They will be rigorous and they will withstand scrutiny. Importantly, they will keep Queenslanders safe.

During the lunch break I had the opportunity to do a little bit of research. I came across some evidence from an unlikely ally, the member for Kawana. In his contribution to the second reading debate of the Criminal Organisation Bill in 2009 he actually agreed with the laws proposed by the Palaszczuk Labor government. He said—

We do not need to enact laws aimed directly at bike gangs or other groups ...

That is precisely what these laws will do. We will have laws directed at the whole of organised crime. I am not sure whether this was the same member for Kawana, but he said—

... there must also be the protection of personal liberties such as the freedom of association.

He went on to say—

This bill encroaches on their personal freedoms and liberties.

We heard the exact opposite when he introduced the VLAD legislation in 2013. That demonstrates the hypocrisy of the member for Kawana.

Our laws are also supported by the Commissioner for Police. He said outright in the *Brisbane Times* that these will be the toughest laws in the country. That is endorsed by the police union, for which I proudly worked for a number of years. The president has recently said—

I am very pleased with the outcomes as proposed. Banning outlaw motorcycle gang colours altogether in Queensland is a move we should be proud of and all other states should follow our lead.