




Speech By  
**Michael Crandon**

**MEMBER FOR COOMERA**

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**COUNTER-TERRORISM AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (5.04 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Counter-Terrorism and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 and report No. 31 of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee. My focus will be on the changes relevant to the terrorist activity that we have been seeing around the world, that was alluded to by the member for Everton, and more closely on our own shores.

The explanatory notes tell us that nationally we have seen an escalation in terrorist related activities. We have seen three terrorist attacks resulting in fatalities; a further six imminent planned attacks were disrupted; and 36 persons have been charged arising from 13 different operations in relation to counterterrorism matters. The explanatory notes go on to tell us that there is an ever-increasing threat of low-tech, lone-actor terrorist attacks. These threats are exponentially harder to disrupt, as there may be no visibility of planning, little or no direct communication between the terrorist group and the attackers and limited time delay between intent and action. Low-tech attacks are often inspired by terrorist groups' public calls for such acts, with the perpetrators having freedom to initiate terrorist activities and self-identify their targets.

In my mind this raises a question: where are we now incarcerating those people around Australia who have been accused of these activities prior to trial and where are we going to house them going forward? I understand from some material I looked at recently that there are two people under this terrorist banner in Queensland prisons, 20 plus in New South Wales and I think 11 in Victoria. We have something in the order of 35 or 36, which fits in with the 36 persons being charged that the explanatory notes talk about. The concern that I have is that we are giving them an opportunity to recruit within our prison system.

Going back to what I spoke about a moment ago, in the explanatory notes it talks about public calls for acts of terrorism by groups culminating in low-tech, lone-actor terrorist attacks. It follows, therefore, that the possibility is there for recruitment to occur in our prison systems. Let's face it: other prisoners are a soft target. They are already shunned by society; they are for the most part poorly educated and easily influenced. Yes, we have toughened police power, but what are we doing about incarceration? My point is that our prisons are fertile grounds for terrorists to recruit others, and as such we have to give serious consideration to how we are going to manage the issue so that we as a society are not developing a breeding ground for other lone wolf terrorist activities in our prison system.

The key objective of the Counter-Terrorism and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 is to equip police with powers to enable a swift response to any emergency in Queensland. Among other things, the bill is intended to instil new laws that will enable police to require any person or organisation to provide information during a declared emergency; create an offence of failure to comply with the information requirement or to give false or misleading information with penalties of up to 10 years; and extend powers to search and/or seize a vehicle as they leave or enter declared areas. There are broader

powers for police to seize other things as well—such as knives, I would imagine—from a person during a declared emergency to include things that that person may use to cause harm.

Following consideration of the evidence provided to the committee, both written and verbal, the committee unanimously agreed to recommend that the bill be passed. In closing, I ask the minister to comment on the issue I raised about the housing of these suspect terrorists and ultimately prisoners if they are subsequently found to be guilty of terrorist type activities. I ask the minister to comment on where we are likely to be housing them and whether we will be potentially creating a breeding ground for other lone wolf types. What are we doing now and what plans are there for the future?