




Speech By
Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

Record of Proceedings, 1 September 2016

MOTION: ORGANISED CRIME

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (4.24 pm): I move—

That this House calls on the government to:

1. protect Queenslanders against the return to Queensland of organised criminal activity of all kinds;
2. guarantee to this House that the effective existing laws in regards to anti-association and 'stop search and detain powers' for police will not be watered down; and
3. ensure that existing clubhouses remain closed and no new clubhouses will be opened.

It has only been a few days since the Premier and the police minister announced the weakening of the current criminal motorcycle gang laws and already the community unrest is palpable. The government have sugar-coated the proposed weakening of the laws with an inane policy of banning biker club colours, a policy that cannot be policed and a policy that is simply meant to be a facade for the weakening of the laws that will happen over the next few weeks. They posture and pretend to be tough on criminals but, make no mistake, the public are not fools nor are the criminal motorcycle gangs. Their track record in this area speaks for itself. Laws under the Bligh government that the police said were totally ineffective, again, were sold as a 'get tough on crime measure' but proved to be totally ineffective. The funding for Taskforce Maxima, the task force put together to tackle organised criminal gangs, has been gutted by a third by this government.

The LNP introduced the current tough legislation because the biker situation in this state, particularly on the Gold Coast, was out of control. Shock and awe tactics to deal with biker gangs were needed to show that they were not in control. Extraordinary laws were needed for extraordinary circumstances. The LNP's laws were all about giving powers to the police to prevent and disrupt criminal activity. Those laws have been adopted by the Labor government of South Australia and are being examined at the moment by the Labor government in Victoria—and they are very keen to take these on because they have seen the success of them in this state—and they have survived a High Court challenge.

What have the current LNP laws done? They have closed down criminal motorcycle gang clubhouses, the clubhouses where the criminal motorcycle gang members came together to consort and plan their criminal activity; we shut them down completely. What are we hearing from the current minister quoted in today's *Courier-Mail*? We are hearing that the current clubhouses will not be open but clubhouses may be allowed to open up as a 'restricted premises'. What does that mean? Does that mean they are only open between nine and five?

Mr Costigan: Like banks.

Mr MANDER: Will the industrial relations minister allow them to open on public holidays? Are they only working banking hours now? I take that interjection from the member for Whitsunday. Make no mistake, under this government biker clubhouses will be back.

What did we also do under our laws? We made the streets of Queensland, particularly those on the Gold Coast, safe again. Families can once again eat out at local restaurants and feel safe. Businesses no longer have to pay protection money and are not frightened to come out and talk about the fact that they had been extorted because they knew they had a government behind them and a legal framework that would protect them.

What do we read in the newspaper this week? A hundred Hell's Angel bikies took over the streets of Waterford causing delays in traffic. One member of the public said it was intimidating, as it would be seeing a hundred patched Hell's Angels. The Gold Coast police commander admitted—

We have given leeway because it was a funeral (but) it appears they have clearly overstepped.

Give these people an inch and they will take a mile.

The bikies are positioning themselves to come back. What the CCC investigation into criminal organisations said is coming true. As Mr MacSporran stated—

It may be inferred that OMCGs (outlaw motorcycle gangs) perceive that the laws will be repealed or reduced, and are positioning themselves to take control of 'turf' once any relaxation occurs.

Make no mistake, colleagues: the bikies are back and Labor is to blame!