




Speech By
Hon. Bill Byrne

MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON

Record of Proceedings, 31 August 2016

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Criminal Motorcycle Gangs

 **Hon. WS BYRNE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services) (2.46 pm): Can I simply show some empathy with the Leader of the Opposition on the speech he just gave. That will not deter me from saying some of the things I need to say this afternoon.

When the LNP formed government in 2012, they came with a number of promises—one of them being to govern with humility, grace and dignity. We all know what then transpired: 14,000 public servants would not agree with that and, \$10,000 in pink jumpsuits later, Queenslanders made a choice about who they felt should govern Queensland.

Much has been said in this House in recent times about outlaw motorcycle gangs. The LNP have been all over the place on this and other organised crime issues, particularly organised crime, and have been for a very, very long time. In March the member for Kawana said on ABC Radio—

It's important to realise that VLAD legislation was not necessarily always about conviction.

He would have said that with the same feigned conviction he used to talk about some of his compromised boot camps. A week later the member for Mansfield told the ABC pm program—

... you can only get convictions if you have crime.

An opposition member: That's right.

Mr BYRNE: You agree with that. The metric for this is that, given that there are no VLAD convictions, there is no bokie crime. It is just a preposterous notion that the Liberal National Party keep putting out into the broader community about organised crime.

Next the member for Mansfield, the shadow Attorney, will be talking about his vision of the doctrine of the separation of powers. We have already seen that recently put forward in a brilliant understanding of where we are at. He went on to say, 'We don't want convictions, we want no crime,' and, 'The fact that the laws have been in effect has pushed the bikies away from creating chaos in Queensland.' I accept that as a point of view. That is a view. However, in February this year the member for Surfers Paradise was reported in the *Gold Coast Bulletin* as saying—

... he was now convinced the bikies had never truly left the Gold Coast ...

...

"I think they are still here,"

They are the member's words, not mine. That is what he said. He went on—

The arrests we have had in the last few days with alleged associations with bokie gangs and the drugs with large amounts of cash show that they never left.

One minute we have not got them, they have left; the next minute they are back. The Liberal National Party—one of the great advocates of civil liberties—is all over the shop on this issue, as it has been since 2009. In Queensland we have an undisciplined, inept opposition with no clear direction and as recently as this year it demonstrated it again.