




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 20 April 2016

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Organised Crime

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (2.17 pm): This government is determined to deliver on its election commitment to give Queenslanders strong and robust legislation to tackle serious organised crime in all of its forms. In response to the report from the Taskforce on Organised Crime Legislation, on Thursday, 4 April the Queensland government announced that it will introduce a new regime to tackle serious organised crime in Queensland. The Queensland government is listening to the experts to ensure workable laws to crack down on the pervasive nature of organised crime in Queensland and that they will be made in the best interests of Queensland families.

I want to thank the members of the task force for their dedication and for lending their various expertise from across the criminal justice system. I want to thank the chair, retired Justice Alan Wilson QC, the Bar Association of Queensland, the Queensland Law Society, the Queensland Police Service, the Queensland Police Union, the Queensland Police Commissioned Officers' Union of Employees, the Public Interest Monitor and representatives from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and the Department of Justice and Attorney-General and the task force secretariat.

Following the comprehensive, detailed and well-researched task force report, I am committed to delivering a new legislative regime aimed at serious organised crime—a regime that is both operationally strong and legally robust. The proposed package of laws will be better suited to combating not just outlaw motorcycle gangs but will empower police to bring down those involved in criminal organisations, be they OMCs, child sex offenders, drug traffickers or boiler room fraudsters.

The new regime draws upon the findings of the Queensland Organised Crime Commission of Inquiry, the Taskforce on Organised Crime Legislation and the statutory review of the Criminal Organisation Act 2009. All three of these reports are now publicly available. It is proposed to retain some elements of the 2013 suite of laws that were found by the task force to work effectively and to replace those aspects that are considered to be compromised, ineffective or vulnerable to constitutional challenge.

The new regime will include aspects of the laws in other jurisdictions that have been shown to be more robust and effective. The result will be workable and enforceable laws for Queensland that will lead to convictions against groups of organised criminals. Some key features of the new regime include targeted consorting laws, new organised crime control orders, additional jail sentences with mandatory provisions for crimes committed by groups of organised criminals, the commitment to ensure that outlaw motorcycle gang clubhouses remain closed, the wearing of outlaw motorcycle gang colours in licensed premises to remain banned, encouraging people to assist law enforcement in disrupting, dismantling and defeating criminal networks and promoting public confidence in Queensland as a safe place to live and invest.

This is a comprehensive approach to deliver a new regime that can be both operationally strong and legally robust. As we move from the myriad laws that are currently on the books to the new comprehensive regime to tackle serious organised crime, we will continue to work with key stakeholders and across government agencies to have appropriate transition arrangements in place as we move from the old laws to the new regime.