




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 16 June 2016

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Budget, Community Safety

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (10.06 am): This government is committed to providing real and practical outcomes for the safety of Queenslanders. Our record since taking office is one of strong action to make Queensland a safer place. We support community safety through tackling alcohol fuelled violence and through a wide range of actions taken to address domestic and family violence. Likewise, this government has demonstrated that it is committed to tackling organised crime in all of its forms.

This budget includes \$3.6 million over four years for crime intelligence hearings into organised crime. These hearings support the Crime and Corruption Commission's intelligence function about criminal organisations or participants in criminal organisations. We have increased funding of \$3.5 million over four years to continue confiscation proceedings in relation to participants in criminal organisations, unexplained wealth orders and the serious drug offender confiscation order scheme. Additional funding of \$20 million over four years has been allocated to the Queensland Police Service to provide additional resources to work alongside the anticipated new legislation. The task force made it clear that a crucial stage in combatting organised crime is to secure convictions of those criminals. The new legislation will empower the Queensland Police Service to tackle organised crime in all its forms, including outlaw motorcycle gangs, complex and highly developed drug trafficking, sophisticated fraud and sexual offending syndicates.

The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions must be properly resourced to pursue convictions of these serious and organised criminals. The government has approved funding of \$12.136 million over four years for the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions which will enable the office to increase its staffing by a further 26 positions, with all the necessary associated costs that go with such an increase.

One of the government's election commitments was the establishment of a crime statistical body. Both the commission of inquiry and the task force recommended the creation of an independent crime statistical body that would prioritise the collection of data on organised crime in Queensland. The government has approved \$8.4 million over three years for the establishment of the crime statistics body to collect data and monitor organised crime, as well as the impacts and trends across all crime types. This builds on the commitments already made by the government upon receiving the report of the commission of inquiry last year. Given the deeply concerning finding of the involvement of organised crime in the child exploitation material market, the government acted immediately to provide the Queensland Police Service as a first-stage response, with \$3.2 million to be shared with the Crime and Corruption Commission to improve front-line investigations into child exploitation.

The Crime and Corruption Commission received funding of \$485,000 to help tackle child sex offending. It will enable the Crime and Corruption Commission to increase paedophilia investigations by its Cerberus team. We have also approved that the Crime and Corruption Commission use retained earnings of \$510,000 for the Cerberus team and the Forensic Computing Unit towards those capital costs, to undertake more criminal investigations. To that end, the government is delivering. All of these funding measures, coupled with our robust legislative reform agenda, are designed to create a safer Queensland for all.