




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 1 September 2016

MOTION: ORGANISED CRIME

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (4.30 pm): I move the following amendment—

That all words after 'against' be deleted and the following words inserted:

1. organised criminal activity of all kinds;
2. guarantee to this House that police have the powers they need to tackle organised crime, including keeping OMCG clubhouses closed;
3. ensure appropriate oversight forms part of Queensland's organised crime laws; and
4. support proper consideration and scrutiny of organised crime legislation through the parliamentary committee process.

What we hear from those opposite and what we have heard for the last four and a half years is the typical tough-on-crime rhetoric that we have heard from the LNP every time, whether they are in government or whether they are in opposition. They go out with a whole fear campaign to scare people, but they never, ever put thought into what they are doing. Why do we need to change these laws?

Mr SPEAKER: Before the Attorney-General gets her breath, the Attorney-General's voice is not as loud as the member for Everton's, so I would urge members to allow me to hear the Attorney-General just as clearly.

Mrs D'ATH: There are three volumes of comprehensive reports: the commission of inquiry into organised crime and two volumes from the Taskforce on Organised Crime Legislation. This is a comprehensive body of work which has been done over the past 18 months to make sure that we have the best laws going forward to tackle all organised crime in this state, not just outlaw motorcycle gangs. What did the LNP do? They shut down all the clubhouses completely; the only problem is that they are sitting there fully fitted out. Their laws stop only the clubhouses in relation to a list of 26 organisations, so if those premises are being used to operate a boiler room fraud operation can they be caught up under section 60B of the VLAD laws? No, they cannot. If they are operating paedophile rings to make and distribute child exploitation materiel would they be caught up under section 60B? No, they would not because they are not one of the 26 outlaw motorcycle gangs that those on the other side targeted because it was all about bikies and nothing else.

Our laws will make sure that we are tackling organised crime more broadly. We hear from those opposite that families are safe now and they can go into restaurants safely because of the LNP's laws, but on 12 February this year John-Paul Langbroek was convinced that bikies had never truly left the Gold Coast. The member for Surfers Paradise is quoted in the *Gold Coast Bulletin*—

"I think they are still here," he said.

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

Opposition members interjected.

Mrs D'ATH: I hear the shadow police spokesperson say, 'Restricted premises; what does that mean?' What an extraordinary statement! I think the member for Everton has just accidentally admitted that he has not read the task force report in any way whatsoever, because if he had he would see that it has been clearly explained in detail what restricted premises are and why the task force recommended those offences be used in the new framework to tackle organised crime, yet the member for Everton wants me to explain it. Pick up the task force report and do your job; that is what I say to the member for Everton. Do your job. If you want to be the shadow spokesperson for police, do your job and read the task force report. The opposition's motion—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, I cannot hear the Attorney-General!

Mrs D'ATH: The opposition's motion—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Albert, you are warned under standing order 253A. Member for Whitsunday, I think you were also speaking at the time. You are also warned under standing order 253A. Were you or were you not speaking? If you were not, I apologise.

Mr COSTIGAN: Mr Speaker, I was not speaking.

Mr SPEAKER: Resume your seat. I call the Attorney-General.

Mrs D'ATH: The LNP motion talked about retaining the anti-association provisions, but in 2009 the member for Southern Downs said—

No amount of new laws dealing with association will stop criminal activity. But giving police and public prosecutors the power to seize all unexplained assets will.

It goes on to say, 'Mr Springborg said recent hearings in the federal parliament into anti-association laws heard over and over from almost every law enforcement agency the best way to fight organised crime was to follow the money trail.' I also have quotes from John-Paul Langbroek, who said that anti-association laws do not tackle the problem, yet here they are today relying on them again.

We are determined to deal with all forms of organised crime. These laws will tackle child exploitation and financial crimes, both of which leave victims in their wake and in some cases take lives. These are serious crimes that ought to be tackled. We will tackle drug trafficking. It is not just about bikies: our laws will be tough on all organised crime.