




Speech By
Bruce Saunders

MEMBER FOR MARYBOROUGH

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**POLICE POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES (COMMONWEALTH GAMES)
AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (4.12 pm): I rise to support the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Commonwealth Games) Amendment Bill 2017. As chair of the committee which investigated the games, I would like to say that it was a very good committee. I would like to thank the police who came in and briefed the committee because we received a very comprehensive briefing from the commissioner and his staff regarding the security arrangements that have been put in place for the Commonwealth Games.

We are all looking forward to the Commonwealth Games—none more than me, because I was a track and field legend in my own lunchtime. It is great that a state like ours, which is the best state in Australia, is going to be on show to the world. We have two great ministers involved in the games—with the Minister for Police, Minister Ryan, looking after the law and order, and the tourism minister, the member for Ashgrove, lifting tourism in this state. These two ministers will make sure these games will be a big success for Queensland.

People on the committee who know me know that I am always checking to make sure that when we give police the extra powers we do it right to make sure we are not giving away hard-fought-for liberties just for the sake of giving them away. I have been through a few battles in my day, and I want to make sure that safeguards are put in place, that the police are responding to the community and that they do follow the letter of the law because they are not above the law. I was happy with the responses from the commissioner and the responses we have received back from the minister's office. To the commissioner and the minister, I say thank you very much for allaying my fears. I now know that everything is right and we are not giving away our freedoms in the name of terrorism. I thank the minister for that.

When we think about the Commonwealth Games, we think about the crowds. The member for Hervey Bay talked about the number of people who will be there. It will be a huge effort for law enforcement agencies to make sure everything is kept in check. There will be 3,500 police officers, 4,500 security personnel and over 2,000 ADF members at the games. One of the concerns I had on the committee was ensuring that the security guards are trained adequately. The member for Albert brought up some great worries—and I agree with him—that we will have overseas visitors here who may not understand English and may not understand the procedures and the way we do things in this country. I do agree, as he said, that we need to have adequate signage for our overseas visitors who come here for the games because they will not be used to the way we operate in Queensland. In fact, people from New South Wales and Victoria sometimes do not understand how we operate in Queensland. We are the Sunshine State and we are a bit different to other parts of the country.

All in all, I was very pleased with the response we received from everyone on the committee. I am looking forward to the games not only for the sporting events—as someone who can sit back and talk about my feats over 100 metres, which took a very long time to run—but also for the opportunity to

showcase this great state with our tourism as well as the great food we grow here. After tourists have had meals here, they will be talking about Queensland when they go home—about our beef, our vegetables and the whole experience. That is what the games are all about.

Mr Pearce interjected.

Mr SAUNDERS: I will take that interjection from the member for Mirani because I was just getting to the greatest city in Queensland and how we can get tourists to have a look at places like Maryborough, Hervey Bay and Wide Bay after the games or before the games.

Mr Pearce interjected.

Mr SAUNDERS: I will take that interjection from the member for Mirani also. It will be great to showcase our fantastic state to the people who will come here as well as to the millions of people throughout the world on the TV networks and the internet. The tourists will go home and tell people that Queensland is a great place to come and holiday and spend your money because they would have had a great meal and watched world-class athletes at the same time.

The most important thing is that we have to make sure people are safe and secure. With these powers, I believe we will be able to control the crowds and make sure safeguards are put in place. The minister did listen to the committee and he came on board. It is good that the minister took everything on board and spoke to the police. It shows that the committee system in this parliament works because the concerns were listened to. I am hoping that we have good weather and we have a great Commonwealth Games. I know that the people on the Gold Coast will put on a great show, as they always do for visitors who go to the Gold Coast.

Mr Boothman: Thank you.

Mr SAUNDERS: I will take that interjection from the member for Albert because I have spent many nights on the Gold Coast and they do put on a good show. This is going to be a fantastic Commonwealth Games. I would like to wish everyone who participates and all of the athletes who come to this great state to train and compete a great games. I would also like to thank the police and the volunteers. The police officers will be on the ground and walking through the crowds to make sure that everyone is safe. I would like to thank them because there will be long hours and it will be hard.

I also thank the volunteers. We have heard that events like the 1982 Commonwealth Games and the Sydney Olympics could not have been a success without the volunteers. The volunteers will make the games because a lot of the contact with our overseas and interstate visitors will be with these volunteers. I thank the volunteers. I thank everyone involved in the Commonwealth Games. I support this bill in the House.