




Speech By
Dale Last

MEMBER FOR BURDEKIN

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

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (4.26 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Commonwealth Games) Amendment Bill 2017. The fact that the Commonwealth Games will be spread over an area from the Gold Coast, through Brisbane, Cairns and Townsville will present a lot of unique challenges for those who are tasked with providing security, and of course that task primarily falls to the Queensland Police Service. As a former member of the Queensland Police Service, I have no hesitation today in saying that I have 100 per cent confidence in our Queensland police officers to keep the athletes, the volunteers, the media personnel and the spectators safe throughout the duration of those games. Certainly we want to be known for all the right reasons and not the wrong reasons.

It is important we also understand that the national terrorism threat level remains at probable—not possible, but probable. The recent events in Manchester certainly reinforce the difficulties associated with keeping everyone safe and dealing with threats of terrorism, which can be very difficult to detect and prevent. It is important that as legislators and members of the parliament we give our police those extra powers, which they have asked for, and the resources that they need to do their job. They have asked for those additional powers. They have asked that we set up a new area—protective security zone—which will allow them to search persons, vehicles and premises and for those searches of persons to be conducted in a timely manner. Certainly under the present Major Events Act—and I have had a fair bit to do with that act—it is onerous to fill in enforcement registers. I can certainly vouch for the time that it takes, after searching someone, to have to go back to a police station or sit in a police vehicle and fill in that register. We should do anything we can to streamline that process. We also need to be cognisant that this is only for the duration of the games. It is a specific power that will enable our police officers to very quickly detain persons, to search persons, to search vehicles and to give directions if needed. It certainly supplements those powers in the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000.

These powers are necessary. I certainly agree with the member for Beaudesert when he took issue with the Council for Civil Liberties' suggestion that the police would abuse these powers. All our police officers are going to be wearing cameras; they are going to be recording all conversations. Every interaction they have with every single person will be recorded, so the level of scrutiny that those officers will be under will be of a standard which will ensure that those powers are certainly not abused.

We want Queensland to shine. This is our opportunity in the world's spotlight and we certainly want to present a positive image to the rest of the world. I have no doubt that this event will be known as the best Commonwealth Games ever, and I have every confidence that our Police Service will keep everyone safe. I am pleased to support this legislation before the House today.