




Speech By  
**Tim Mander**

**MEMBER FOR EVERTON**

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### **APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL: LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE**

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (4.58 pm): When we reflect on the estimates hearings that we held for the Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Corrective Services there is a smorgasbord of things to choose to talk about in the short period that we have, but it is very difficult to go past the weakening of the bikie laws that the LNP government successfully implemented at the end of 2013. In this short address, I want to highlight a statement made by the police minister in parliament on 24 May. That statement was then repeated by the Premier. He said—

Due to Taskforce Maxima's relentless pursuit, the number of OMCGs in Queensland has almost halved. Patched OMCG membership has plunged from 1,158 in late 2013 to 695 as of last week ...

From late 2013 to now, it has plunged to 695. At the estimates hearing, I asked the minister if they could provide the figure of the reduction since the Labor Party's new legislation came in. They could not provide that straight away, which is fair enough, so they took it as a question on notice. The answer came back a week or so later. It was that 94 per cent of that reduction occurred because of the LNP's tough anti-bikie laws. They are proudly claiming that, unwilling to confess that it was the tough anti-bikie laws that the LNP brought in that led to this reduction. There have only been 27 bikies who have disassociated themselves since the new legislation has come in. Is it any wonder when we look at how those opposite have weakened the legislation and what they have brought in instead?

The other questions I really wanted answered related to the consorting legislation, the warnings that are given and how somebody can be charged with a consorting offence. That was quite—

**Mr McEachan:** How is that working in New South Wales?

**Mr MANDER:** I take that interjection about how that is working in New South Wales. That was quite enlightening as well. I put this proposal to the Police Commissioner and asked whether it is a true and accurate position. To be charged with a consorting offence one needs to be in the company of two other people, the same two people on at least two occasions and those two people have to at least have been convicted of an offence that had a five-year prison sentence, but that is only if it has not been expunged under the rehabilitation of offenders act. A normal cop on the beat is walking around trying to implement this law. How can anybody do that easily? That is why there has been one conviction.

**A government member** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Millar): Order! Member for Logan, if you are going to interject please sit in your allocated seat.

**Mr MANDER:** How in the heck can these laws be effective if a policeman on the beat has to go through that sort of process to lay a charge? Is it any wonder that most of the charges have come from Taskforce Maxima?

The other interesting thing was that the minister wanted to give me a lesson on the consorting laws. He said that I probably do not understand how this work. I quote from *Hansard* where he said—

They literally sit down with the offender and say, 'You cannot consort. You cannot associate with these people'—there are photographs on a board—'and you are required to comply with that notice.'

'You naughty little children; you are not to be with these people whose photographs are on the board.' He said that they are serious about the warning. These new laws are a joke. They are treated as a joke by criminals on the Gold Coast. Is it any wonder that the Comancheros have now established a presence on the Gold Coast? Is it any wonder that Satudarah, the criminal motorcycle gang that originates from the Netherlands, have a presence on the Gold Coast as well? Is it any wonder that the Mongrels are back on the Gold Coast as well?

These laws have been weakened and are ineffective. Only the LNP will enact laws that make sure we give a clear message to bikies that they are not welcome on the Gold Coast, that they are not welcome in Queensland and that we will drive them into the ground and rid them from our state.