




Speech By  
**Hon. Craig Crawford**

**MEMBER FOR BARRON RIVER**

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**POLICE AND OTHER LEGISLATION (IDENTITY AND BIOMETRIC CAPABILITY)  
AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (2.35 pm): I rise to speak to the Police and Other Legislation (Identity and Biometric Capability) Amendment Bill 2018. The identity-matching service is a large national project that is technically complex and requires significant coordination between participating agencies. This includes the finalisation of participation agreements and associated privacy impact statements. For that reason, it is not anticipated that the full facial biometric-matching capability will be available to QPS for the security operation—which is known as Operation Sentinel—for next month's Gold Coast Commonwealth Games. However, contingent on the passage of this bill it is anticipated that QPS will at a minimum have access to the face verification service. This will allow the comparison of images with Commonwealth held visa and passport records.

By virtue of the proposed amendments to the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 and the Transport Planning and Coordination Act 1994 which are included in this bill, access to Department of Transport and Main Roads digital photographs will also be available to QPS in time to support Operation Sentinel. Although the Commonwealth Games do not officially commence until 4 April, the first operational phase of Operation Sentinel began with the start of the Queen's baton relay on 13 March. The final phase of Operation Sentinel started on 5 March with the commencement of bomb searching and venue lockdowns. Further developments will certainly ramp up as the opening of the games draws closer.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to providing Queenslanders and visitors with a memorable Commonwealth Games. Queensland Fire and Emergency Services is partnering with QPS to ensure the safety of the public and athletes attending the games. The wellbeing of all athletes, officials, spectators and visitors at the games is our priority. The Palaszczuk government's \$11.35 million QFES Commonwealth Games program includes the deployment of 850 personnel. A substantial part of this funding will ensure public safety and ensure the QFES will be ready to respond to any emergency. QFES's involvement will include 400 paid employees and 450 volunteers; 850 personnel will undertake a total of 3,500 shifts. This is part of a three-year program which has involved the establishment of a dedicated QFES Commonwealth Games office. This office employs 19 full-time staff who work closely with games partners to ensure a collaborative approach to emergency planning at Gold Coast 2018.

QFES have entered the final phase of preparations and are actively involved in multi-agency and cross-partner Gold Coast 2018 exercises leading up to the April games. This final phase involves exercises and training to test our capabilities and processes ahead of the event, which will be held at venues across the Gold Coast, Brisbane, Cairns and Townsville. I was on hand recently when QFES personnel took to the skies to deal with Commonwealth Games emergencies and went through their specialist air training at Archerfield. The ready reaction team, which will be deployed in two helicopters,

involves 35 QFES staff and volunteers, including Fire and Rescue Service and Rural Fire Service firefighters and State Emergency Service operators. Of these, 12 Fire and Rescue Service firefighters are urban search and rescue—or USAR—accredited.

Apart from the extra training, the air capability of QFS will be considerably enhanced during the games. QFS will provide personnel during the games for command, firefighting, scientific, specialist urban search and rescue and rescue officers, support staff and volunteers. Whilst this identity-matching service will not be at optimum capability in time for the Commonwealth Games, any technology that enables the rapid identification of people is of value in a security operation the size and complexity of Operation Sentinel. This is why the Palaszczuk government has given the Police and Other Legislation (Identity and Biometric Capability) Amendment Bill 2018 a high priority. I commend the bill to the House.