



Speech By  
**Hon. Shannon Fentiman**


**MEMBER FOR WATERFORD**

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Record of Proceedings, 14 September 2021

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce**

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.05 am): I rise to update the House on the progress of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce, chaired by the Hon. Margaret McMurdo AC. Since the Premier and I announced the task force earlier this year, they have wasted no time in canvassing the views of stakeholders and women with a lived experience of violence. Already the task force has received over 700 submissions from survivors and their family members, frontline workers and the wider community.

Violence against women is an epidemic that has impacted the lives of too many women in Queensland from all walks of life. The task force has also now released two discussion papers: one looking at different options to legislate against coercive control and another to look at key themes to focus on for the second report into women's experience of the criminal justice system.

The task force has also conducted consultation on the Gold Coast, in Mount Isa and in the Torres Strait. Due to the breadth and complexity of the task force's work, the number of women who have reached out to provide submissions, as well as ongoing impacts of COVID-19 and the inability of the task force to travel, the chair has written to me seeking an extension to ensure it fulfils the terms of reference, particularly in relation to engagement and consultation with stakeholders and those with a lived experience.

As such I have granted an extension by one month for the delivery of their first report on how best to legislate against coercive control and an extension of three months until June next year for their final report on women's experience of the criminal justice system. These are complex issues. Queensland will be the first state to legislate against coercive control and we need to ensure that we get it right to avoid unintended consequences which have been raised by many stakeholders in their submissions.

Given the complexity and importance of giving each submission its due diligence, the Queensland government has granted the extension. I would like to thank everyone who has written a submission, participated in one of the task force's consultation sessions or met with a task force member. I would also particularly like to thank all of the brave women who have come forward to share their own story. We have heard you. I look forward to receiving the first report in November this year.