




Speech By
Michael Crandon

MEMBER FOR COOMERA

Record of Proceedings, 15 March 2022

**POLICE LEGISLATION (EFFICIENCIES AND EFFECTIVENESS) AMENDMENT
BILL**

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (3.13 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate of the Police Legislation (Efficiencies and Effectiveness) Amendment Bill 2021. We are grateful for the police and the work they do, particularly during the recent floods. The new police officers on the northern Gold Coast have been out and about, working in the community. I am grateful for Commissioner Katarina Carroll, who, just six weeks after stepping into the role of Commissioner for Police, saw the need and announced a new police station at Pimpama. It was wonderful news. It came after a long—

Mr Lister: How many petitions?

Mr CRANDON: There were probably eight petitions. The first petition was made by the Hon. Margaret Keech, the then member for Albert, in 2011. She ran that petition all the way back then. I supported the then member for Albert at that time. We worked very well together in that local area. I thank her for her efforts, although they did not come to fruition. The efforts of the then member for Albert and now member for Theodore were combined with my own over an extended period of time—from 2016 right the way through to 22 March this year, the date of the official opening. The Minister for Police, Commissioner Katarina Carroll, and I invite all members to come along to this very important occasion.

The Pimpama Police Station was the never-to-be-built police station. It was never going to happen; I was told that many times. Very fortunately, the new commissioner came along and said, 'We're going to build one right next door to the Fire and Emergency Services station.' Of course, she had previously been the commissioner for Fire and Emergency Services. I recall having a conversation with the then minister for fire and emergency services about that block of land in Cox Road, Pimpama. Some advisers to the minister were in the room at the time and said that, yes, they had been having conversations with Police in relation to the availability of that land next door. It was a huge effort, from 2011 right the way through to 2022. It was 11 years in the making.

This is the cream on the cake: for the first time in history, according to the local police right through the ranks, we are getting 36 additional police thanks to Katarina Carroll and her understanding of all of the representations that we made to her—

Government members interjected.

Mr CRANDON: I was stopping expecting you to call the room to order, Madam Deputy Speaker Bush, but I am wasting my time now.

Mr Power interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Member for Logan! Order, members!

Mr CRANDON: Now I have lost my train of thought. I will have to start again. I want to start by saying how excited we are on the northern Gold Coast. We have 36 additional police coming to the northern Gold Coast. I met with Deputy Commissioner Doug Smith after I wrote to Katarina Carroll directly and she asked him to come and speak to me. He went through it all and said, 'Member for

Coomera, you can tell the people that you are getting 36 additional police. There will be not one loss at Coomera station, Beenleigh station or any other station around the area. You are getting 36 additional police for the northern Gold Coast.' What does that mean? We had 81 police thanks to the hard work of getting 14 additional police put into the northern Gold Coast and Coomera a couple of years before. We had been calling for 50 and this 36 rounds it out to that 50. It takes us to 117 police on the northern Gold Coast, thanks to the operational decision-making of Katarina Carroll.

As I said earlier, I am sure the minister will join with me in inviting every member of the House to the opening on the 22nd. There will be room. Just let us know that you are coming and we will make sure there are some extra doughnuts and scones there for you.

Returning to the bill, I bring to the attention of the House concerns about changes to the Weapons Act 1990, specifically the proposal to extend the three-month temporary possession to six months—not so much the change, but the potential consequences of the change. Will it mean the QPS Weapons Licensing branch will continue to be poorly resourced to the extent that long delays in granting licences will continue? I read from page 19 of the committee's report. The Shooters Union stated—

With 8000 licences outstanding, some of which must be the result of late renewals and the amendment proposing an extension of storage to 6 months and licences not even being assessed until 5 months have passed, it would seem that the service standard for the issue of licences by Weapons Licensing Branch is already far exceeding the 3 months temporary storage requirements.

The report further states—

The Firearms Dealers Association—Qld Inc (FDAQ) expressed similar concerns stating that while it 'appreciated the proposed extension' for temporary storage, it should be accompanied with shorter processing times for the issuing of a new licence. SIFA held similar views: 'extending the timeframes permitted for temporary storage must not have the effect of extending the time taken to process routine licensing applications.

Late last year I had a good example of this brought to my attention. On 3 November I received correspondence from a constituent which I forwarded to the minister on 8 November. The constituent advised he first applied on 17 June for his licence. He was then advised on 4 November—the day after I received the correspondence from him last year—that his licences were approved. As at 18 November he was still waiting for the licences—more than a further two weeks. It was about four weeks, or six months from the time he applied for the licence, before he actually got his licence. Then, of course, he had to wait another 28 days before he could access the firearms. These processes have impacts on the individual. In the minutes I have left, let me read from his letter, which I will table—

We understand that this is simply the situation and that a new licence application is required to move our firearms to Queensland and re-engage in our sport. We accept this as a consequence of moving and starting afresh. The problem we have encountered is the delay in getting our licences approved. We understand the 28 day 'cooling off' period which appears standard in all states, however it's stated online that there's a wait time beyond that period of at least 20 weeks in Queensland. When I called the QPS Weapons Licensing Branch I was informed that the 20 week delay was in fact a conservative minimum time. We are looking at around six months to get re-licensed despite being highly vetted and licensed already in WA.

I did some simple sums and concluded that our licencing for two clubs (required for the different classes of firearms we own), storage fees (before we are able to utilise our gun safes) and police licencing fees—

and so forth, will amount to something like \$1,792. He further states—

We don't feel as though this is reasonable and wanted to let you know. I honestly can't think of any other group in the community that's treated like this by any government agency. I don't expect my case to be expedited or any special treatment. We are actually about more than half way through the wait time but are interested in commencing with our clubs.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 5 October 2021, from a constituent to the member for Coomera, Mr Michael Crandon MP, regarding firearms licence fees [287](#).

The point is that these folk are waiting far too long and we need to make sure that we speed that process up. Thank you. See you on the 22nd!