

EDUCATION, TOURISM, INNOVATION AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Report No. 31 on the

Police Powers and Responsibilities (Commonwealth Games) Amendment Bill 2017

QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

INTRODUCTION

On 14 February 2017, the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Commonwealth Games) Amendment Bill 2017 (the Bill) was introduced into Parliament and referred to the Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee (the Committee) for examination.

On 27 April 2017, the Committee tabled its report in relation to the Bill. The Queensland Government response to the Committee's recommendations is provided below.

RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS:

Recommendation 1

The committee recommends the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Commonwealth Games) Amendment Bill 2017 be passed.

Queensland Government response:

The Queensland Government thanks the Committee for its timely consideration of the Bill and appreciates the Committee's recommendation that the Bill be passed.

Recommendation 2

The Committee notes that proposed sections 619G and 619H of the Bill require the location and boundary of a protective security zone to be published on a designated website, and recommends:

- the Commissioner nominates an integrated Commonwealth Games website as a 'designated website' for the purpose of proposed sections 619G and 619H of the legislation;
- the Minister for the Commonwealth Games and the Minister for Police Fire and Emergency Services ensure an integrated Commonwealth Games website provides Games visitors, athletes, residents and the public with information about all aspects of the Games including events, transport, security measures, protective security zones and major event zones;
- the Commonwealth Games website provides information in the main languages used in Commonwealth countries.

Queensland Government response: Supported in principle

The Government supports the intent of this recommendation and agrees that information about the Games should be easily accessible online to members of the public. However, this will be achieved by linked websites that create an online platform rather than a single integrated website.

A range of information relating to the Games will be available on an integrated online platform including the official GC2018 website and the State's 'Embracing 2018' website. This will include information relevant to Games visitors, athletes, residents and the public about all aspects of the Games including events, transport and security arrangements. Information about protective security zones and major event areas will also be integrated into this online platform.

It is important that the Queensland Police Service (QPS) website be the 'designated website' for protective security zones, particularly in relation to protective security zones declared urgently by the Police Commissioner under new section 619H. The QPS requires the ability to immediately upload information to the designated website as a Commissioner's declaration under section 619H does not take effect until published on the designated website. Such a declaration may be required in urgent circumstances, at any time, and any delay in the process of uploading information to a website controlled by another agency could compromise the safety and security of the Games.

The official GC2018 website will only be made available in English. The official language of the Commonwealth Games is English, as prescribed by the Commonwealth Games Federation in its Constitution and English is spoken as a first or second language in most Commonwealth countries. However, in addition to English, the State's 'Embracing 2018' website will also be made available in Arabic, Chinese and Japanese which are the main languages spoken by residents on the Gold Coast. Online translation tools are also readily available to assist international visitors and non-English speakers.

Recommendation 3

The Committee recommends the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Commonwealth Games) Amendment Bill 2017 be amended to provide that the Commissioner must ensure that the operation and effectiveness of the additional police powers in protective security zones for the Commonwealth Games are reviewed, in similar terms to section 98 of the now repealed *G20 (Safety and Security) Act 2013*.

Queensland Government response: Supported

The Government agrees that it is appropriate to include a clause in the Bill to ensure the Commissioner conducts a review of the additional police powers for the Games. The QPS planned to conduct a review of chapter 19A at the conclusion of the Games as part of the finalisation of the entire QPS Games response and this amendment will formalise this process.

To give effect to recommendation 3, the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and the Minister for Corrective Services will move an amendment during consideration in detail of the Bill.

The Queensland Government thanks the Committee for its consideration of the Bill.