

6-5-14

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Report No. 61 on the

Public Safety Business Agency Bill 2014

QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

INTRODUCTION

On 6 March 2014, the Public Safety Business Agency Bill 2014 (the Bill) was introduced into Parliament.

The Bill was subsequently referred to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee (the Committee) with a report due on 29 April 2014.

The Committee called for public submissions and the following submissions were received:

Submission Number	Submitter Name
1	The Queensland Police Commissioned Officers' Union (QPCOU)
2	The Queensland Police Union of Employees (QPUE)

In their submission, the QPCOU raised concerns about the vetting processes to be applied to Public Safety Business Agency (PSBA) staff members who may have access to information held in Queensland Police Service (QPS) databases. In responding to this submission, the PSBA acknowledged the importance of maintaining information security and indicated that the issue raised by the QPCOU was under current consideration by the Government.

On 29 April 2014, the Committee tabled Report No. 61 in relation to the Bill (the Report).

The Queensland Government response to the Committee's recommendations is provided below.

RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS:

Recommendation 1

The committee recommends the Public Safety Business Agency Bill 2014 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 recommends the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services clarify to the House – the vetting process which will be used by non-Queensland Police Service officers employed in the Public Safety Business Agency and confirm that appropriate levels of vetting will be used to ensure the security of information is maintained through the new agency.

- Queensland Government response: **Supported.**

The Queensland Government had identified the concerns raised by the QPCOU in relation to information security as an issue. The Queensland Government has decided to move amendments during consideration in detail of the Bill to ensure that PSBA staff members will be subjected to the same vetting process as QPS staff members in determining the PSBA staff members' suitability to be, or continue to be, engaged by the PSBA.

The Queensland Government considers the recommendation made by the Committee confirms the seriousness of this issue and is an endorsement of the decision to move these amendments.

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