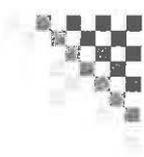




# QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE

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Our Ref: DOC16/1150834

Your Ref:

7 October 2016

Hon Mark Furner MP  
Chair  
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Furner

Thank you for your invitation to appear as a witness before the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee's public briefing to the Serious and Organised Crime Amendment Bill 2016 on 26 September 2016.

I refer to the Committee's email of 28 September 2016 providing witnesses with an opportunity to ensure the transcript of the briefing is accurate, and to clarify any statements as required.

I would like to draw your attention to one matter.

Mr Molhoek MP stated that during the Wilson Review of the *Criminal Organisation Act 2009* (COA), I was reported as saying that the traditional consorting laws were a thing of the past and that it was getting increasingly difficult to police (see page 17 of the transcript).

I responded to Mr Molhoek by stating that I was not sure that I had made such a statement, to which Mr Molhoek quoted me as having said the following:

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'Mr MOLHOEK: I will read the quote—

Traditional consorting laws were repealed in Queensland in 2005, and when in place those laws were increasingly difficult to police. The Queensland Police Service considered there were greater priorities for investigative staff than enforcing consorting laws which had been enacted in the 1920s. Contemporary communications technology, including mobile phone,

SMS and online forums make criminal consorting less reliant on physical contact and therefore much more difficult to police.'

I made the statement in 2008 when I appeared before the Joint Committee on the Australian Crime Commission into Legislative arrangements to outlaw serious and organised crime groups in the capacity of QPS Deputy Commissioner. I did not make this statement as part of the 2015 COA Review.

<http://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/search/display/display.w3p;db=COMMITTEES;id=committees%2Fcommjnt%2F11391%2F0002;query=Id%3A%22committees%2Fcommjnt%2F11391%2F0000%22>

I would also point out that the proposed legislation your Committee is considering provides a suite of powers (including 'consorting' provisions) that are contemporary in nature unlike the historic 'consorting' laws.

Thank you for allowing me to bring this matter to the Committee's attention. If you have any further inquiries please do not hesitate to contact my office on 3364 6977.

Yours sincerely



**IAN STEWART**  
**COMMISSIONER**