



The Hon Jarrod Bleijie MP  
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice

In reply please quote: 2482736

Level 18 State Law Building  
50 Ann Street Brisbane 4000  
GPO Box 149 Brisbane  
Queensland 4001 Australia  
**Telephone +61 7 3247 9068**  
**Facsimile +61 7 3221 4352**  
**Email [attorney@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:attorney@ministerial.qld.gov.au)**

**16 MAY 2014**

Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
Parliament House  
Cnr Alice and George Streets  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter dated 7 May 2014 regarding Petition No. 2179-13, presented to the Queensland Legislative Assembly, about this Government's plan to combat organised crime in Queensland and the effect this may have on law abiding motorcycle riders.

The Queensland Government has introduced a package of legislation aimed at ensuring that it is no longer beneficial to be part of a criminal motorcycle gang or other organised crime group.

We are determined to rid Queensland of these criminal groups which threaten the welfare of this great State. Such criminal groups are responsible for serious acts of violence and organised crime such as drug production and distribution and the extortion of legitimate business owners.

The new legislation includes significant mandatory penalties for members of organised crime groups convicted of serious offences and tougher bail laws. Gang members are now banned from gathering in groups, attending specific locations, wearing club colours at licensed venues and owning, operating or working in various occupational industries. Police have also been granted extended powers to allow them to stop and search a person who is reasonably suspected of being a member of a criminal organisation.

As the Honourable Campbell Newman MP, Premier, said in Parliament when these laws were introduced, law abiding motorcyclists have nothing to fear. It is a complete defence to the new offences if the defendant can prove that the criminal organisation is not an organisation that has, as one of its purposes, the purpose of engaging in, or conspiring to engage in, criminal activity.

(2)

I accept that motorcyclists may be inconvenienced while police focus on criminal motorcycle gangs but we ask for their patience and co-operation with police officers who may wish to check their credentials as part of their professional duties.

The Government is motivated by its concerns for community safety and the Queensland economy and is committed to making the streets of Queensland safer for everyone. We make no apologies for these tough new laws.

I trust this response is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely



**JARROD BLEIJIE MP**  
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice