



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

In reply please quote: 557709/1, 2452397

Your reference: 10.4 Petitions

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Mr Neil Laurie
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Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter dated 13 February 2014 regarding Petition No. 2198-13, presented to the Queensland Legislative Assembly, petitioning for the abolition of the recent package of law reforms introduced by the Queensland Government targeting criminal organisations.

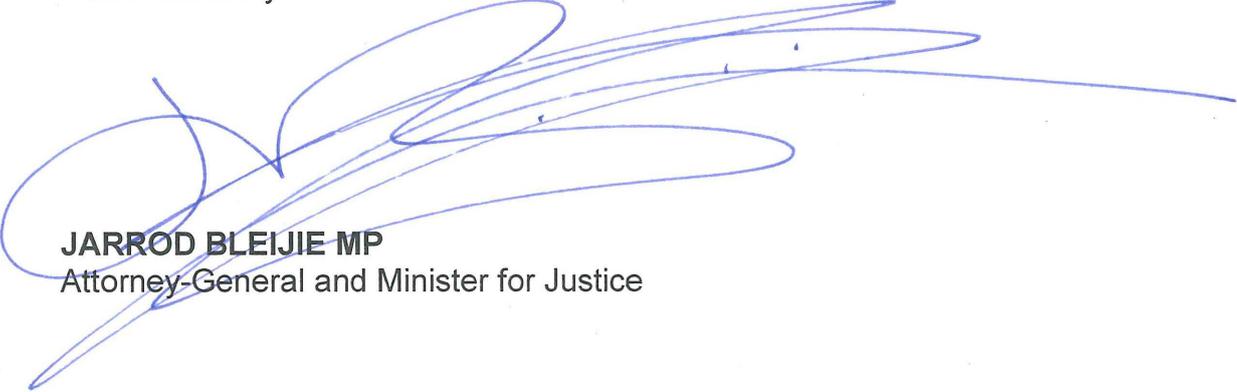
The Government introduced this suite of legislation with the aim of ridding Queensland of criminal groups which threaten the welfare of this great State. Such criminal groups are responsible for serious acts of violence and organised crime such as drug production and distribution and the extortion of legitimate business owners.

The new legislation includes significant mandatory penalties for members of organised crime groups convicted of serious offences and tougher bail laws. Criminal 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.

This Government makes no apologies with regard to these tough new laws and is satisfied that the safeguards built into the legislation are adequate. A person charged under the new laws has the opportunity to prove that the organisation to which they are connected is not an organisation that engages in criminal activity. Any person who can prove this has a complete defence to the criminal offences created or aggravated by this legislation. I also note that the legislation must be reviewed three years after commencement and the results of the review will be tabled in Parliament.

I trust this information is of assistance and thank you for bringing the concerns of the petitioners to my attention.

Yours sincerely



JARROD BLEIJIE MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice