



Honourable Yvette D'Ath MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice
Minister for Training and Skills

In reply please quote: 3070865

10 DEC 2015

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

Dear Mr ^{Neil}Laurie

I refer to petition 2440-15, presented to the Legislative Assembly on 10 November 2015, regarding the former Liberal National Party Government's stance on criminal organisations.

The petitioners ask that the laws targeting criminal organisations introduced by the previous Government be retained.

The Queensland Government is committed to tackling all forms of organised crime, not only in relation to criminal motorcycle gangs. The Government is committed to fighting all aspects of organised crime and will not be making rushed changes to Queensland's current laws.

However, the Government holds concerns about a large body of legislation targeting criminal motorcycle gangs which was passed during the term of the previous Government with very little public consultation or scrutiny, including the *Vicious Lawless Association Disestablishment Act 2013*. That is why the Government has established a high level Taskforce (the Taskforce) to review that legislation and to recommend replacement or substantially amended laws and to develop a new offence of serious organised crime for Queensland.

The Taskforce is chaired by retired Supreme Court Justice, Mr Alan Wilson, and includes representation from the Queensland Police and Commissioned Officers' Unions, the Queensland Police Service and other Government agencies, Queensland Law Society, the Bar Association of Queensland and the Public Interest Monitor.

Further information about the Taskforce including its terms of reference can be found on its website at: <http://www.justice.qld.gov.au/taskforce-into-organised-crime>.
The Taskforce is due to report back to the Government by 31 March 2016.

The Attorney-General has also appointed Mr Wilson to undertake a statutory review of the *Criminal Organisation Act 2009* with a report back date of 15 December 2015.

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The Queensland Government will listen to the experts to put in place workable laws to crack down on the pervasive nature of organised crime in Queensland. The new laws will be made in the best interests of Queensland families and with support from those in the position to offer the best advice. However, the current laws will remain in place until new legislation is enacted.

The Government also established an independent Commission of Inquiry (the Inquiry) into organised crime in Queensland, which commenced on 1 May 2015, to ascertain the extent and nature of organised crime and its impacts on the economy and society in general. The Inquiry, headed by Mr Michael Byrne QC, presented its report to the Government on 30 October 2015. As outlined in the Terms of Reference tabled in the Queensland Parliament on 27 March 2015, the Inquiry examined the major illicit drug markets, online child sex offending (including the child exploitation material market), financial crimes and the relationship between organised crime and corruption in Queensland.

Under its Terms of Reference, the Taskforce must now consider relevant recommendations from the Inquiry's report.

The Queensland Government is reviewing the Inquiry's 43 recommendations and has committed to taking immediate action to address the critical finding of the Inquiry that more resources are needed on the front line to investigate child exploitation. The Queensland Government has provided \$3.2 million, sourced from savings from the Inquiry, to crack down on the online sharing of child exploitation material. A new police taskforce, Taskforce Orion will lead the crack-down.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



YVETTE D'ATH MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice
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