




Speech By
Hon. Jann Stuckey

MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN

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MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Cross-Border Policing

 **Hon. JA STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games) (2.49 pm): I rise to update the House on cross-border policing activities on the southern Gold Coast. Living in a border community will always present some obstacles, especially when it involves such a high concentration of people and activity as does the popular tourist region of Coolangatta-Tweed.

On 31 January this year Geoff Provest, the member for Tweed, and I convened a cross-border meeting of high ranking police officials from Queensland and New South Wales. This was a productive meeting, with authorities from both states communicating and working cooperatively towards keeping our neighbourhoods safe.

Since the inception of Taskforce Takeback on 28 September 2013, the cross-border operations conducted between Queensland police and New South Wales police have included a traffic operation targeting the cross-border movement of criminal motorcycle gangs and the antifortification of the Nomads CMG clubhouse and similarly the Mongols CMG clubhouse. It was these cross-border activities that saw the arrest of a number of CMG members for drug trafficking, and one offender was the first person to be charged pursuant to the Vicious Lawless Association Disestablishment Act 2014.

From 11-20 March 2014, in a 10-day joint initiative targeting criminal motorcycle gangs in the region, Taskforce Maxima joined the New South Wales Police Force's Strike Force Raptor and the national gangs squad which yielded some impressive figures: eight arrests; five firearms seized; the dismantling of two clubhouses; the execution of six search warrants; the inspection of six businesses associated with criminal gangs; and 46 traffic infringement notices. This joint operation between the Queensland police and the New South Wales police recently arrested another series of CMG members who are awaiting their fate. Police engaged in a number of discussions with members and associates of criminal gangs, providing invaluable intelligence regarding their illegal operations. This collaborative approach has enormous merit and highlights the successful outcomes that can be achieved by working together.

I commend the work of Deputy Commissioner Brett Pointing and Superintendent Jim Keogh for cracking down hard on criminals, in cleaning up our streets and throwing the full force of the law at those who choose to participate in illegal activities. In just over six months Taskforce Takeback has made significant inroads towards stamping out criminal behaviour. They have completed 791 arrests, issued 2,726 traffic infringement notices, 137 liquor infringement notices, conducted 16,728 random breath tests and generated 2,100 intelligence reports.

I also commend the work of the police minister and this government for increasing Gold Coast police numbers by 106 officers, from 681 to 787. These additional officers, combined with the necessary resources and the introduction of tough legislation, have contributed to assaults falling, robberies and break and enters on the Gold Coast are down—

(Time expired)