



Speech By
Jann Stuckey

MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN

Record of Proceedings, 11 November 2015

COUNTER-TERRORISM AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (8.58 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Counter-Terrorism and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015, which seeks to update several acts, most prominently the Terrorism (Preventative Detention) Act 2005. I would like to add my support for this bill and in particular its intention to update the Terrorism (Preventative Detention) Act, which is due to expire on 16 December 2015. Provisions include extension of the sunset provision, extension of the extraterritorial application of the TPDA and Public Safety Preservation Act 1986, and extension of various emergency powers under those acts so they may be exercised in other jurisdictions. Given the very real current and foreseeable global terrorism threats and disturbing homegrown radicalisation element, it is important to ensure that this act is extended into the future to enhance a number of personal security measures for the protection and safety of Queensland citizens.

When the Terrorism (Preventative Detention) Act 2005 was introduced in 2005, then premier Peter Beattie expressed the hope that we would not require these laws into 10 years. Roll forward to 2015 and, sadly, nothing could be further from the truth. Australian citizens and their families across the globe and on home soil have been tragically and innocently killed or scarred for life because of terrorist activities since 2005. These deadly crimes show no sign of abating, and today's ready access to social and news media keeps us informed every second of the day of further grisly deeds and atrocities on a scale not even witnessed in fictional horror movies.

As highlighted by the recent tragedy involving the downing of a Russian passenger flight from Egypt in the Sinai desert by a suspected luggage bomb, terror lurks where you least suspect it. Rather than live in fear of these monsters, we must adopt proactive measures that give our police and judges powers to deal harshly with perpetrators and their associates. As communities, we must educate young and old to stand together as a nation against extremism and terrorism in all of its forms. As has already been mentioned, it is fortunate that this legislation has not been exercised to date, but its presence ensures heightened security for major events such as the Brisbane G20, which was expertly managed without incident. This legislation ensured that the Queensland Police Service had the power to act swiftly and in a preventative manner if a plot was imminent.

The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee handed down four recommendations, including a call for an independent review to occur within two years of the act's commencement and a report to be handed down no later than three years. A key comment from the committee on page 15 of their report states—

The committee considers that although untested and unreviewed, the PDO regime should remain in place ... considering the balance between individual rights and liberties, community safety, and practical application.

The committee further stated that it is better to have them and not need them, than to need them and not have them, whilst reinforcing that a review is required in a more timely manner than proposed by the bill.

Large-scale carnivals, festivals and sporting events can be viewed as potentially tempting targets for high-impact broad-publicity attacks, and this bill adds strength to protection measures to ensure the safety of all involved from attendees to organisers. The Gold Coast hosts a significant number of major events, and I see some Gold Coast folk in the gallery tonight. Our Gold Coast does host many events, particularly the upcoming 2018 Commonwealth Games. That is why in the previous government I introduced the major events legislation that would streamline processes and increase screening and safety initiatives for spectators and participants alike. As the member for Currumbin for almost 12 years I am genuinely connected to a community that I proudly represent, and I am 100 per cent dedicated to the safety of the people who live in, and visit, my electorate.

I applaud the efforts of our police and other law enforcement agencies who put their lives on the line to protect our citizens, and today being Remembrance Day do not let us ever forget the sacrifices that were made to keep our country free and safe. The passage of this bill will reassure our citizens and visitors all across Queensland and will send the very strong message that not only are we vigilant in our attempts to thwart terrorism, but we will do so in a very orderly manner.