




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR ALBERT

Record of Proceedings, 11 November 2015

COUNTER-TERRORISM AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Albert—LNP) (8.32 pm): I rise tonight to make a very brief contribution to the debate on the Counter-Terrorism and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015. I thank the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee for its review of this legislation and for making some very thoughtful recommendations. It is certainly sad that we live in a world that has been forever changed as a result of terrorist acts. Unfortunately, even in this wonderful country of ours—a country with modern cities, free health care, freedom of religion and freedom of speech—there are those among us who wish to destroy our way of life. We saw that in December 2014 when a lone gunman entered the Lindt cafe in Martin Place and laid siege to not only the coffee shop but also our way of life. We all know that he held other human beings hostage for 16 hours. I am sure none of us will forget that this man's acts of fear and terror cost the lives of two innocent people. This year, a 15-year-old boy shot and killed an unarmed police civilian finance worker outside his work in Parramatta.

Our law enforcement agencies do their utmost to protect our way of life and the freedoms we hold so dear. With a heavy heart, we must consider the liberties of freedom of individual choice and respect other people's opinions whilst not at the expense of people's rights. This is a fine line we, as elected members of parliament, must tackle when we pass laws in this chamber. The safety of the broader community must be the highest priority.

We are experiencing terrorism recruitment in a whole new frontier, a frontier of bits and bytes, data encryption and social media. To quote from a *Daily Mail* article of 19 March 2013, an internet minute consists of 639,800 gigabytes of data. This article also predicted that by 2015 the number of network devices will be double the world's population. This has created a new set of dilemmas for our law enforcement agencies. The sheer scale of the internet and the data transferred per minute is beyond comprehension.

We have been lucky that Queensland's preventative detention legislation and terrorist emergency powers have never been used, but these powers are necessary in preventing or minimising the potential impact or loss of life from a terrorist act. This leads me to thanking most profusely our local law enforcement agencies, our local police, for their diligence in keeping our community safe. Under this legislation, the Terrorism (Preventative Detention) Act 2005 will expire at midnight on 16 December 2015. This bill will roll it over to allow it to continue for another 10 years.

I will not go into the details of the recommendations. The member for Morayfield and the member for Gympie were thorough in their explanations. I support what this bill is trying to do in trying to keep us a free nation—a nation where we can minimise attacks from individuals who want to destroy our free nation and our way of life.