




Speech By
Mark Boothman

MEMBER FOR ALBERT

Record of Proceedings, 25 May 2017

**POLICE POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES (COMMONWEALTH GAMES)
AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Albert—LNP) (3.58 pm): I too rise to make a contribution to the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Commonwealth Games) Amendment Bill 2017. I thank my fellow committee members for our long deliberations and discussions on this bill. It was a very productive time. With the chair and the deputy chair, I must say that we have a very good committee. It is very good to work with all of the members of the committee.

Like the member for Broadwater, my electorate covers parts of the Gold Coast and Logan, and we will be hosting the best event in 2018 anywhere in the world. People in my region are very proud of their region. It is a beautiful place to live. We have the beautiful rolling hills, with Mount Tamborine in the background. We are only a short distance from the best beaches in the world. I cannot imagine anywhere better to have a Commonwealth Games. I know that these Commonwealth Games will be the best. I feel sorry for Glasgow because they do not have the beautiful beaches like we do. They can also have cold and dreary weather over there, but we have warm and sunny hearts over here.

Given what has transpired around the world in recent times, with the unfortunate events in Manchester and the innocent victims of that most horrendous crime, the Commonwealth Games is certainly at the forefront of people's minds, especially people in my area. Having legislation in place to give as much protection as possible to our local residents at this event is paramount.

With 1.5 billion people around the world watching the Commonwealth Games, the media spotlight will be on the Gold Coast. It is imperative that we ensure these are the safest games in the history of the games, especially considering what is going on around the world in France, Germany, the US and England. It is very sad that international terrorism is becoming more commonplace. We, as legislators, must ensure that laws are put in place to ensure that events where people congregate are safe.

We discussed these laws at length with all those who participated in the committee process—the police, the Law Society et cetera. I honestly do not have any problems with what the police have put on the table. Major sporting events already have to adhere to these laws. If you go to these sporting events, you get searched. I cannot see much difference with what is being proposed here today.

I know that some members of the committee had concerns about the rights of those who want to air an opinion or protest a cause. If that is done in a safe manner and that does not obstruct the games, then they have every right to have their opinion heard, but we must ensure that we make it as hard as possible for those in our society who wish to do the greater population harm. I keep thinking back to the poor innocent individuals in Manchester and the little girl who was only a little older than my daughter. I would hate to see that happen at one of our events in this great country of ours. I thank the law enforcement agencies for their due diligence and perseverance in tracking down these individuals to keep our community safe.

I would like to follow on from the member for Broadwater and the member for Townsville who spoke about recommendation 3, and I thank the minister for incorporating that. After legislation such as this is passed, there should be a review process put in place to ensure that we learn from any mistakes that might occur.

Lastly, we need to get the information out there to people all around the world to ensure that individuals know what is expected and what to expect when entering Commonwealth Games facilities and security zones. I know there have been a lot of discussions about websites, but these days phone apps seem to be a big thing in our community. If we could design a phone app, they could easily download it when they arrive into the country so they could have firsthand information with them at all times. That would be advantageous for those individuals, especially those for whom English is their second language, if it were in their own language.

I certainly support what the police have prescribed in this bill. I hope my part of the world has the best Commonwealth Games in the history of the Commonwealth Games. A lot of my constituents are very excited about it. We have some events in my electorate. The new electorate of Theodore is going to take in the Coomera sports centre, which I am taking off the member for Coomera, Mr Crandon. I have to gloat about that now. It has finally come over to the light side of the highway, one could say.

Without further ado, my wish is that the Commonwealth Games is a safe event. With this legislation and the wonderful work of our local police, I think this will be the best Commonwealth Games ever.