



LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Members present:

Mr IM Berry MP (Chair)
Miss VM Barton MP
Mr WS Byrne MP
Mr SK Choat MP
Mr AS Dillaway MP
Mr TJ Watts MP (via teleconference)

Staff present:

Mr B Hastie (Research Director)
Ms K Christensen (Principal Research Officer)

PUBLIC BRIEFING—G20 (SAFETY AND SECURITY) BILL 2013

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

FRIDAY, 13 SEPTEMBER 2013

Brisbane

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Committee met at 9.30 am

CHAIR: I declare this public briefing for the examination of the G20 (Safety and Security) Bill 2013 open. Thank you for your interest and for your attendance here today. The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee is a statutory committee of the Queensland parliament and as such represents the parliament. It is an all-party committee, which adopts a non-partisan approach to its inquiries.

My name is Ian Berry and I am the member for Ipswich and chair of the committee. I would also like to introduce the members of the committee participating today: Miss Verity Barton, member for Broadwater; Mr Bill Byrne, member for Rockhampton; Mr Aaron Dillaway, member for Bulimba; Mr Trevor Watts, member for Toowoomba North, who is participating via teleconference; and also Mr Sean Choat, member for Ipswich West. The member for Nicklin, Mr Peter Wellington, who is the deputy chair, is unable to join us today because of conflicting parliamentary responsibilities—I think it is the PCMC, as you probably all know.

On 20 August 2013, the G20 (Safety and Security) Bill 2013 was introduced into parliament and was subsequently referred to the committee for examination and report to the House. This morning the committee is being assisted in its examination of the bill by officials from the Queensland Police Service.

First, I remind those present that the committee's proceedings are lawful proceedings and are subject to the standing rules and orders of the Queensland parliament. I ask all people present to turn their mobile phones off or to put them on silent mode. In the unlikely event of the need to evacuate, please follow staff directions. Members of the public are reminded that they are here to observe the briefing and may not interrupt the briefing. In accordance with standing order 208, any person admitted to this briefing may be excluded at the discretion of the chair or by order of the committee. Representatives of the media may attend and may record the briefing.

BARNETT, Deputy Commissioner Ross, Queensland Police Service

CARROLL, Assistant Commissioner Katarina, Queensland Police Service

COLEMAN, Acting Chief Superintendent Graham, Queensland Police Service

HENDERSON, Senior Sergeant John, Queensland Police Service

LYNCH, Senior Sergeant Jodie, Queensland Police Service

CHAIR: Moving to the consideration of the bill, today we have in attendance the following officers from the Queensland Police Service: Deputy Commissioner Ross Barnett, Assistant Commissioner Katarina Carroll, Acting Chief Superintendent Graham Coleman, Senior Sergeant Jodie Lynch and Senior Sergeant John Henderson. Good morning and thank you for coming along here today. I remind you before speaking to please identify yourselves and speak clearly for Hansard. Deputy Commissioner Barnett, before we move to some questions from the committee, would you like to start with an opening statement in relation to the bill?

Deputy Commissioner Barnett: Thank you, Mr Chairman, and good morning to the committee. We thank you for the opportunity to brief the committee in relation to the G20 bill. Before I start, I will introduce the senior police officers from the Queensland Police Service who are here present today and their role. Assistant Commissioner Katarina Carroll is responsible for leading the G20 group, planning and coordinating the G20 QPS response. Acting Chief Superintendent Graham Coleman is available to comment on any general operational issues associated with the G20.

The committee would be aware that the Group of Twenty, or G20, is comprised of 20 of the world's most advanced and emerging economies and is the premier forum for global, economic and financial cooperation. To date there have been eight G20 leaders' summits in major cities around the world. The most recent summit was held last week in St Petersburg, Russia. Assistant
Brisbane

Commissioner Carroll and I were present at St Petersburg for this event, and there may be an opportunity for us to speak today about our experiences there. For the moment, though, I will focus on the 2014 G20 meeting to be held in Queensland.

The G20 meeting will consist of a number of meetings held during Australia's host year. The two most important meetings are the Heads of State/Heads of Government Meeting, referred to as the leaders' summit, and the finance ministers' meeting. The leaders' summit will be held in Brisbane on 15 and 16 November 2014 and the finance ministers' meeting will be held in Cairns on 20 and 21 September 2014.

The G20 meeting has been described as the biggest international meeting Australia has ever hosted, with as many as 4,000 delegates and an additional 3,000 media representatives from around the world expected to attend. World media attention will focus on Queensland during the G20 meeting. Such widespread attention can act as a catalyst for those prepared to use violence and disruption to obtain publicity for their cause. Recent G20 meetings in London in 2009 and in Toronto in 2010 were the target for violent demonstrations and riots, resulting in serious injuries to members of the public and the police officers and extensive damage to property. Also, violent demonstrations against G20 related issues occurred in Rome during the 2011 G20 meeting held in France.

The QPS is primarily responsible for the security of the 2014 G20 meeting. This will include providing security for internationally protected persons, meeting and accommodation venues, motorcade routes and any other official event associated with the G20 meeting. During the G20 period, the Police Service will also continue to uphold its responsibility to protect members of the public and their property.

The G20 (Safety and Security) Bill 2013 will allow the QPS to meet the high level of security and protection that is expected and demanded of it by the Commonwealth, the foreign nations attending the G20 meeting and importantly the people of Queensland. As committee members are familiar with the bill's content, I will not take up valuable time by explaining it clause by clause. However, I would like to take the opportunity to address certain issues associated with the bill and the use of police powers.

The foundation of the security arrangements in the bill is the establishment of security areas. These areas will only exist for the short period surrounding the G20 meetings. The security areas include restricted areas, motorcade areas and declared areas. Restricted areas will include accommodation and meeting venues and logistics areas. The Commonwealth has leased these restricted areas for the duration of the G20 meeting and, therefore, these specific areas would not be expected to be open to access by members of the public. The boundaries of these restricted areas are outlined in the maps contained in the bill.

Some of these restricted areas include major roads. Should these roads be closed for the duration of the G20 meeting, it is acknowledged there would be traffic congestion. However, this has been taken into consideration. The bill allows a police venue commander to reduce the boundaries of the restricted areas at times when the full security area is not required. This allows roads to be open for traffic as they usually would be. The boundary of a particular area will only be extended out to its full perimeter should, for example, a violent protest be anticipated at that venue or a particular threat exists.

You will have noted that the South Brisbane Railway Station will be closed during the G20 meeting. Whilst this initiative is required for security, Queensland Rail will continue to operate trains past the station. Therefore, any disruption to rail travel will be minimal.

Motorcade areas will apply to roads used to move delegates to and from the airport, to their accommodation and to meetings. For security purposes these roads will be closed to general traffic. However, these roads will only be closed for the time necessary to allow a motorcade to safely pass. At all other times the road will be open to normal usage. It is intended that road closures will be kept to the shortest time possible which may, in some instances, only be a few minutes.

Declared areas will act as a security buffer zone around meeting and accommodation venues and the Brisbane and Cairns airports. Members of the public can go about their usual business in a declared area and will be free to enter and leave a declared area as they desire.

I am aware there are concerns that the bill allows for members of the public to be strip searched if they are in a declared area. That concern is unfounded. Members of the public going about their lawful business will not be strip searched unless the person is a prohibited or excluded person or there is a reasonable suspicion that the person may be in possession of a prohibited item

without lawful excuse and a frisk search has not located the item. The bill does allow for a basic search of a person who is entering, is in or is leaving a declared area. However, these searches, if conducted at all, will be similar to the basic search that a person undergoes when entering the departure lounge of an airport.

I am also aware of a recent report suggesting that protests will be banned. The QPS does not support restricting the right of peaceful assembly. People will be free to engage in a peaceful protest within a declared area should they choose to do so. Indeed, the QPS will be appointing liaison officers who will be responsible to consult with any person or group wishing to conduct a peaceful protest. The only limitations placed on protests is that they be non-violent and participants do not possess a prohibited item without a lawful excuse.

In closing, I believe the bill achieves a balance between providing the powers necessary to ensure the safety and security of the G20 meeting and protection of members of the public whilst ensuring the least possible disruption is caused to the community. My colleagues and I are happy to take questions in relation to the bill.

CHAIR: Thank you very much, Deputy Commissioner. I call the member for Bulimba.

Mr DILLAWAY: Deputy Commissioner, you touched on there at the end that you felt that the bill adequately addresses the powers required. But I would like you to explain or maybe just highlight if you think that the bill does adequately provide QPS with sufficient additional powers to control the event. If not, where do you believe additional powers are required?

Deputy Commissioner Barnett: I am happy to defer to any of my colleagues to assist with any of the detail. Can I just say as an overarching comments that the Police Service is satisfied that the elements of the bill as presented will allow us to do our job effectively and provide the required level of security for both the people attending the event and also members of the community who are going about their business. There are obviously a range of provisions within the bill that give the police additional powers that are not normally available to us. We believe that they are essential for us to be able to deliver the mandate and the heavy responsibility, can I say, that has been placed on this department to facilitate effectively the largest peacetime security operation in Australia's history, which is what G20 will be. I am happy if my colleagues want to add anything about specific provisions of the bill that we think aid in that process.

Assistant Commissioner Carroll: Just to add to what the deputy commissioner has said, an extraordinary amount of world-wide research was conducted for this bill and also research particularly of past big events in Australia—CHOGM, APEC in Queensland and New South Wales, and our own CHOGM. So the bill has come from that research and previous legislation. I think, from what we have seen and what we have put together in the bill, we are quite satisfied that it gives us the necessary powers to provide for the security and the safety not only of the world leaders but particularly of the community of Queensland.

CHAIR: I know we spoke briefly about your experience at St Petersburg beforehand, but I would be interested in hearing from you about your experiences there—whether anything was gained, keeping in mind that St Petersburg is a country that might be a little different perhaps than a Western country. I might direct that to the deputy commissioner, but by all means I know that both the deputy commissioner and the assistant commissioner have been there and I would be very interested to hear about your experiences.

Deputy Commissioner Barnett: Probably the significant learnings from our trip to St Petersburg were the differences between the event conducted there and what will be happening in Brisbane next year. St Petersburg was conducted in an environment well away from the CBD of the city. They were able to provide a ring of security around the event which meant that, once people had gone through one of the three checkpoints to get into the inner perimeter of the precinct, security was then able to be relaxed inside that venue. Also, having the media well inside the security perimeter and close to the meeting venue meant that issue-motivated groups had no potential for exposure to the media because the media simply were not there. That led to a complete absence of any protest activity whatsoever. We did not see a single protester on any day, at any venue, at any location.

The challenge for us in delivering this event, of course, is that our meeting venue is in the middle of the CBD. We will not have the luxury of having that security perimeter. In fact, members of the community will have very close proximity relatively speaking to the event and to the world leaders. The opportunity for lawful protest remains here but that will be conducted in precincts that are very, very close to where the event will be conducted. I think they are probably the striking differences between the way St Petersburg was conducted and the way that this will be conducted.

By way of history, the history of G20 is that whenever the event is conducted in a CBD location, such as it will be here next year, it has always been accompanied by significant amounts of issue-motivated group violence. That is the history of the event. Where it is held in a remote location that has not been an issue, but in locations similar to what we will be providing the history is that there has always been a significant level of protest.

CHAIR: I might follow up with one question and it relates to the interaction between your service, the federal service and the federal government. I assume that you will have a heads-up in relation to persons of interest who come into Australia. I assume there is interaction there. Could you expand on how effective you think that will be to capture the people of interest to you—'capture' in the general sense, by the way?

Deputy Commissioner Barnett: I am happy to provide an answer and then I might defer to the assistant commissioner. It is important to note that this is a three-tier government delivered event. As you know, the invitation is from the Prime Minister. The Commonwealth government actually hosts the event. Queensland and Brisbane have been fortunate enough to be selected as the host city, but this is a Commonwealth event so we work very closely with our Commonwealth colleagues. There is a Commonwealth G20 task force. There is a state task force, and we work very closely with local government as well because all levels of government are impacted by this. In terms of the question you asked, there is already a very strong intelligence-sharing arrangement between all of the relevant agencies at Commonwealth and state levels, and the issue you raise about identifying people who have a proven record of being problematic in this area is one of many issues that we are working very collaboratively with the Commonwealth on in identifying. I will ask the AC to comment.

Assistant Commissioner Carroll: That is correct, Sir. The other thing is our contact with our international intelligence agencies as well. There are over 20 agencies involved in the G20 already. By the time the G20 arrives we will have a good sense of who is coming to G20, and those we suspect who will compromise security and safety issues will be made up of the prohibited list that is spoken about in the bill.

Mr DILLAWAY: I have a follow-up question from your first question, Ian. You highlighted that this is the largest event in peace time in Australia, but you also highlighted that there have been issues in other locations around the world when it has been hosted in a CBD area. I would like to get an understanding operationally how you feel the resources, particularly police numbers, will be able to address not only the logistics of what we have but also if there is a mass protest and that starts being disruptive how you are going to cover that.

Deputy Commissioner Barnett: I will ask others to comment, but as an overarching statement we have already reached out to all of the other states and New Zealand to assist us with the provision of policing services, particularly specialist policing services, to help us police this event because we realise that while this event is going on we also have a concurrent responsibility to maintain business as usual and service to every other citizen in Queensland. Things do not grind to a halt just because we have this event for three or four days. This will stretch our capability but we will be well supported by every other jurisdiction and New Zealand to help us deliver that, but we also need to know that when we are drawing down from police around Queensland we need to keep residual capacity there to deal with business as usual. I do not know whether that addresses your question.

Mr DILLAWAY: If there is a mass protest I guess you will have reserve staff not taking leave and the like operationally?

Assistant Commissioner Carroll: To follow on from the deputy, there will be some 3,000 Queensland police officers involved in this—3,000 to 3½ thousand—1,500 from interstate and New Zealand, particularly from specialist areas, 400 AFP and over 200 ADF. On top of that there is tier 1 security inside the venues. There will be quite a number of them as well as SES officers as well as volunteers. So there will be a considerable amount of resources. From the research we have conducted around the world, those numbers are comparable to any other G20 event that has been held and very similar to the numbers in Toronto. In fact, as part of our peer review, we currently have in Queensland doing a peer review of our planning Tom Russell, who was one of the chief planners for Toronto, and their numbers were quite similar to ours and they had a very similar environment to ours as well.

Chief Supt Coleman: If I may, the commissioner has ordered a leave embargo for next year from 1 September through to 30 November. So across the state for that three-month period the only leave that can be granted can be approved at the deputy commissioner level. So, in effect, there will be very little, if any, leave across the state which will help us achieve the numbers that we require.

Mr DILLAWAY: Thank you.

Mr BYRNE: I am sure I can say that for once this committee is uniform in its view about supporting what you are trying to do here. You would be aware of some of the recent criticisms in the media. Some quarters of our community do not view security perhaps the way that others do, particularly the Law Society and others that have made comments. Do you have any comments you would like to make to respond to those sorts of criticisms?

Deputy Commissioner Barnett: I did note the comments made by office holders and other persons in the legal profession and their concerns about the provisions of the bill. I can only say that one of the great things about this country is that it is a democracy and we have the right of free speech, and we respect the right of other people to hold a contrary view to our own. The only distinction I would make between the Queensland Police Service's position and those other interested participants is that we are the ones who have all the skin in the game in terms of having the responsibility to deliver this event. If there is a failure in security, the possible consequences range from minor, major and all the way up to catastrophic, and the responsibility for that failure rests with the QPS not with other people. Whilst I respect their right to have an alternative view, they do not bear the responsibility delivery that we do.

Mr BYRNE: Thank you, Deputy Commissioner. I have a couple of other questions which are a bit more technical. Most of the legislation requires a senior police officer to close roads under section 39 or let ambulance officers into restricted areas et cetera. According to the definition in the bill, 'senior police officer' is superintendent level or above. How many officers of this rank are rostered on or required? I ask you that in regard to the number of senior officers that have been reduced as part of the restructure. Have you any information on that?

Chief Supt Coleman: Yes, Mr Byrne. One of the lessons learned from Toronto was that the command officers were not appointed far enough out. So, in effect, they had a planning team which handed over to an operational team very close to the event. That is a lesson that we have learnt. We have already identified the key people who will hold command positions now in excess of 12 months out from the operation. Our intention is for those people to be actively involved with our group in the planning around the event. As a part of that, we have identified officers of at least that level at all of the major venues, so the BCEC in Brisbane. A chief superintendent will be in charge of that. From an operational context, it would be the Police Operations Centre where those decisions would be made and where those decisions would be advertised. The decision to close the motorway at a particular time would be made by the Police Operations Centre, which is commanded by an assistant commissioner at the operational level and there will be a deputy commissioner at the tactical level. There will certainly be sufficient police of the rank required to make those decisions and to publicise in the case of motorcades those route closures at any given time across the 24-hour period.

Deputy Commissioner Barnett: I am sure it is self-evident but can I add for the record the reason that a rank such as that has been specified is to give an indication that we view the use of these powers very seriously and we want to make sure there is public confidence that officers of a senior rank will be the ones making these decisions and reflect the gravity of what we are asking the parliament to consider.

Mr CHOAT: Generally to the panel, it is my view that the community of Queensland sees this as a great opportunity to showcase what we have to offer in terms of a great place to visit, business investment and to see that we are a great, friendly, accommodating community. I guess there is a sense of concern that we may have peaceful protesters who can turn on a knife's edge into something less desirable. Do you believe that you have the opportunity to use discretion when you see a protest that is about to turn to be able to deal with it and remove any potential embarrassment?

Assistant Commissioner Carroll: We are in the process of putting together a management strategy to deal with public order. From the very outset, how we are going to deal with issue-motivated groups right to how they are dealt with on the day on the street. To give you a sense of what that involves, that will start off with the history of what issue-motivated groups is all about. In terms of our engagement with issue-motivated groups, we have an engagement team that will deal with businesses, community and residents. There will be another one that will deal with media and one particularly with expert negotiators to deal with issue-motivated groups.

That engagement has already started. So from the very outset that will take place to meet with the groups to tell them what the legislation is, what our expectation is and what is expected of them. On top of that, that will also articulate how the various police officers are to deal with issues

on the ground. At the end of the day if, heaven forbid, there is an incident and we end up with a commission of inquiry or some inquiry that I, as the operations commander, and that constable will have a very clear view on how those decisions were made and why they were made.

CHAIR: At this moment in time I might give the member for Toowoomba North an opportunity to ask a question if he wishes to do so.

Mr WATTS: No, I am good thanks. I have been listening intently but ultimately I support the bill, and I am pleased that the sunset clauses are in. But I think security is paramount and I do not have any further questions at this time.

Miss BARTON: I want to ask about some of the continuing provisions. The majority of the bill will expire on 17 November but there are some that are continuing for the next year. I was wondering if you could detail what those are and why it is important for them to continue.

Snr Sgt Lynch: The main reason for adding those provisions was to ensure that relevant provisions necessary for prosecuting offenders were in place past the expiration of the act. Largely, the reasons are to do with evidence and offence provisions.

CHAIR: I have a question at this time about language diversity. Clearly we have international visitors both inside the perimeter and outside the perimeter. How will that be addressed?

Assistant Commissioner Carroll: Do you mean in terms of providing interpreters?

CHAIR: Indeed. You have people who cannot speak English and you are about to do a strip search and they have no idea what you are doing. Keep in mind that we have a great number of backpackers in Brisbane and we can expect that this will be a sight to see. It would not be impossible to suggest that people will be at the wrong place at the wrong time. How are you going to deal with that if their native language is not English?

Assistant Commissioner Carroll: I can tell you that was an issue in Russia even for us. In terms of how it will be addressed in Brisbane, there are normal provisions in terms of providing interpreters in relation to any legislation that we deal with at the moment. We have not provided anything in the bill in addition to that. It will be business as usual in dealing with people with language issues. That said, we recognise there will be people from all corners of the world. In terms of providing this legislation, we will implement something a little more robust than what we have to address those issues.

CHAIR: Perhaps I will be a little bit more pointed by asking whether there is any contemplated unit set up via radio or mobile phone to an interpreting service for an officer only conversing in English to talk to somebody conversing in Danish, for instance? In other words, can they ring somebody to get an interpreter?

Assistant Commissioner Carroll: Other than the normal provisions that we have now, nothing has been put in place at the moment, but it can be put in place for this event.

CHAIR: If anybody from the committee wishes to ask a question let me know because I have a few. My first is in relation to strip searching. I appreciate the provisions and, again, coupled with the fact that language can always be a difficulty. I know there are various stages of searching—I said strip searching but I meant searching. The major concern, of course, is making sure that we have a female searched by a female. Could you please outline how you see that as being possible? Do you anticipate it not being the case anywhere?

Assistant Commissioner Carroll: This has been provided for specifically and obviously we put a lot of thought into this. There will be room set aside in each of the venues to particularly address this issue. There should be no reason that I can see that a same-sex person will not be searching anyone who needs to be searched.

Deputy Commissioner Barnett: Just for the record, the quota of female officers in the department is approximately 30 per cent. I have no doubt that, in our selection of officers to participate in this event from the police side, we will well recognise the gender issues that are relevant here and have sufficient female officers rostered to attend.

Mr DILLAWAY: Just to extend it—and this is not the question I was going to ask—of course culture and religion are factors that we know at the moment are causing some angst not just here in Australia but also around the world. By what means are you going to address that, in particular, regarding, again, the strip searching and other means?

Deputy Commissioner Barnett: I am happy to start and I will hand over to the assistant commissioner. Generally, the Police Service is fortunate to have a number of ethnic officers covering a wide range of backgrounds and covering the G20 spectrum of countries. In addition to

that, we have appointed police liaison officers who are also multilingual and provide us with that capacity as well. We will be drawing on all of those resources. Perhaps we will be fortunate that police being provided from other jurisdictions will also come with some additional language skills which will be of benefit to us.

Assistant Commissioner Carroll: In addition to that, I have not got it here, but one of the guiding principles in my strategic plan is that it has to be delivered with dignity. So it is not only providing the safety and security, it is also the dignity of the people involved. So that will be resonated throughout the G20 event.

Mr BYRNE: Just reading through the bill for the first time I am wondering why it appears that the penalty for assaulting an appointed person under section 75 is a maximum of 40 penalty points, which is less than failing to comply with a direction, for example, under section 69, which is 50 penalty points or interfering with the reasonable enjoyment of a G20 meeting under section 74, which is 50 penalty points. Nothing within the bill seems to point to jail time for any offences that people may commit. Is there a rationale behind that?

Snr Sgt Lynch: I am happy to answer that. If I can address the offence penalties generally, there are a number of offence provisions in part 7—more general disorder type offences. There are also offences in relation to disclosure of information in section 85 and then there are offences to do with appointed persons in clauses 92 and 93. No offence carries imprisonment and they are all simple offences. A number of those offence provisions have been borrowed from the Western Australian CHOGM legislation. So effectively a lot of those offence provisions mirror offence provisions there. However, the penalties in the Western Australian legislation were much tougher and they carried imprisonment. Also a lot of those general offences are similar to offences in our special event legislation. The penalties have been increased from those to recognise the nature of the G20 event. However, they are much lower than what you refer to in the WA legislation in terms of imprisonment. It was recognised that that was not necessary. However, a balance has been achieved between the penalties being sufficient to recognise the nature of the event but not tough, if you know what I mean.

Mr WATTS: Could I ask you to speak up a little bit? I am having trouble hearing some of the comments.

CHAIR: I will go to the acting assistant commissioner to make a further comment.

Chief Supt Coleman: Just to take that further, in relation to the penalty for the offence—40 penalty units—of assault, that would be a minor assault on an appointed person. If it was an assault of a nature that could be prosecuted under the Criminal Code, that would be the way that we—

Mr BYRNE: It goes to default.

Chief Supt Coleman: That is exactly right. That would be for something very minor, thus, why the penalty is a little lower than the others that you quoted.

CHAIR: I just gave you a promotion, Chief Superintendent!

Chief Supt Coleman: And I appreciate that, Mr Chair. Thank you very much.

CHAIR: I have been told I do have foresight.

Assistant Commissioner Carroll: He is hoping so!

CHAIR: Before Mr Dillaway asks another question, I just want to keep to the theme that we have been talking about. I would be interested in knowing the extent and the use of the provisions in those other jurisdictions. For instance, do you have any raw data from other jurisdictions in relation to the number of arrests under the expanded powers? They are obviously matters that you have digested in order to come up with your regime.

Assistant Commissioner Carroll: I am conferring with my partner. The CHOGM event in Western Australia was a very quiet affair. If they had any arrests, it was in relation to the motivated groups. Most of our research that has come has been in relation to arrests and overseas experiences. In Toronto there were over 1,300 arrests. In London there were over 800 arrests and, obviously, as you would see from the footage, some of those were quite violent. In terms of the Australian experience, particularly in CHOGM, that was a very quiet affair.

Deputy Commissioner Barnett: Just to also add to that answer, what we want to achieve here is a 'no surprises' regime where people who come to the event, particularly those whom we engage with who have any contemplation of any sort of protest activity, are left in no doubt as to what the regime is and what the consequences will be of a failure to observe the law as it is eventually passed by the parliament of Queensland. We are hoping that engagement and education

will lead to a reduction in the need for illegality and enforcement. That is our overriding principle, that people who come have a clear understanding of the law and the expectations of how we will enforce it.

Mr DILLAWAY: There are a couple of parts to my question. I want to get back to the local residents and the local businesspeople. What security measures are in place for residents who live in those G20 zones? What security measures are in place for work? Has consultation commenced to start working with those groups?

Chief Supt Coleman: The limitation of access only relates to a restricted area and the restricted areas as per the legislation are around the meeting venues and the accommodation venues. There are very few individuals who actually reside within those areas. There are a couple of hotels, and most of them relate to people who actually work there, for instance the general manager of one of the hotels lives on site. There are very few people who actually reside within a restricted zone and it is only the restricted zone which will require accreditation.

In relation to the declared areas, there will be a general right of way, just as there is today, into all of those areas. We will not be stopping people for any reason whatsoever apart from if they are unlawfully in possession of a prohibited item as per the legislation. There will be some disruption within the declared areas simply because in the declared areas along the motorcade routes we will be having motorcades moving. At the time of the movement of motorcades we will be stopping other traffic. That I see from an operational perspective will be the main impact that we have on the people of Brisbane, the fact that when we are actually moving motorcades around we will be closing roads and there will be disruption to the community. The only other times that there may be any disruption to members of the community and stopping the ability of people to move around is if there is some type of protest action. If it is a peaceful protest, as there is in Brisbane almost every day—almost every day of the year there is a protest of some sort in Brisbane and it does not really affect the city to a great extent. It may affect the city if it goes to that next level and there is some type of violence or damage involved in it. Does that answer the question?

Mr DILLAWAY: Yes, it does.

Assistant Commissioner Carroll: Just to quickly go on from what Mr Coleman had to say, there may be some instances in which residents, in order to get to their residence, have to go through a secure area. We are looking at a system of residents passes similar to what they have at the Gold Coast for Indy that gives residents access to their residence. As you know, some of the venues and bigger hotels have a lot of residents who live across from the restricted area. So we are looking at that.

The only other thing you asked about was the engagement strategy. We have already commenced engagement with all of the businesses and community involved; people are allocated to that role. Also we got leaflets done up that we are handing out. We have met with QPAC and businesses over on the south side. We have a website available for people to go to and an email address for people to have contact with us. We are doing that through traditional means plus the modern way of doing it through our social media as well. That has commenced. Obviously, when we take over the presidency on 1 December, that will continue in earnest.

Mr DILLAWAY: Can I ask a quick follow-up? With regard to the motorcades and road closures—and in your opening statement you indicated they would potentially only be closed for a short period. However, with 20 heads of state here there could be a number of closures and opens. What engagement strategy are you planning to use to advise the broader public of when those roads are going to be opened and closed? Is it variable?

Chief Supt Coleman: We have been in close consultation with the Brisbane City Council and the Department of Transport and Main Roads and we have had some very good meetings in relation to how we take that issue forward. They have been a party to the routes that we have looked at and the impacts that will have on the motoring public. Obviously, under legislation we have to notify on our website when a motorcade route is going to be closed. We also have to use the media to get that message out. So we use our engagement team. It will not only be our engagement team; there will also be cooperation between us, the G20 task force, the Brisbane City Council and DTMR. I think we can build a very good package for the public to let them know when roads will be closed.

You were right in relation to the times. Whilst the deputy indicated there will be some road closures for very short periods—that is correct—there will be some longer road closures. From an operational instance, on the Saturday morning of the G20, generally there is a photo opportunity on the front steps where our Prime Minister shakes hands with all of the other visitors. Whilst the G20

is made up of 20 international heads, there are also an additional five heads of government who are invited. There are also an additional seven, eight or nine international organisations whose heads come as internationally protected people and, therefore, are entitled by international convention to a security service from us. So there could be up to 33 motorcades moving. Particularly if we are going to do a handshake with the Prime Minister on Saturday morning or Saturday afternoon—whenever the event opens at the BC&EC—we will have to get 33 motorcades from the city across there in a 60-to-90 minute period. I would suggest that at that point there might be a two-hour road closure for the roads that we are using. That would be the maximum time that I would see that we would be closing off roads.

One other thing I will add to that is obviously if there is an increase in threat level at any stage between now and then or if there is an increase in threat level on the weekend associated with activities of protesters or any other threat, we may actually have a further disruption of the people of Brisbane and we may have to close roads to a greater extent. We are not planning—we are hoping that does not happen. We will have plans in place to make that happen if it occurs, but it is not our intention to do that.

Deputy Commissioner Barnett: To add to that, one of the learnings from our visit to St Petersburg was that necessarily the advice about road closures is possibly going to come very late due to the fact that some world leaders change their schedule at the last minute. So often an estimated time of arrival can vary quite markedly depending on other events. We are going to be operating in a very fluid environment.

CHAIR: That would probably be for security reasons as well, would it not?

Deputy Commissioner Barnett: Yes.

Miss BARTON: I have a question with regard to the interstate and international police officers and also the AFP and the ADF. In terms of their jurisdictional authority and power, particularly in light of some of the more violent arrests in London, how are we making sure that there is no liability for those officers who are coming in from another jurisdiction to help if it becomes violent? Where will that authority be granted from and when and so forth?

Chief Supt Coleman: Under this legislation those New Zealand and interstate police will become authorised officers. That will give them powers under this. The commissioner can also give them powers under the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act. So that is where they will get their authority.

Our view from an operational point of view is that particularly those specialist teams work in a unit. So public order response teams—public management teams, special emergency response teams and the like—work and train in a team environment and we will lead them in that team environment when they are here. But where we cannot split them to work with the Queensland officers we will actually have Queensland liaison officers with them at all times. We will get those specialist police—the police tactical groups, the public order police, the close personal protection police—in earlier so they can cross-train with our staff in the week leading up to the event.

On top of that, by making them authorised people under this legislation they will need to have an understanding of the legislation and the powers involved. So we intend to have a very comprehensive training program in relation to this. For the interstate and overseas police that will be done electronically, so by an online learning product. We will also have a portion of last-minute training upon their arrival. So we will actually have face-to-face training with them in relation to a range of issues. Included in that will be the legislation so they have an understanding of the powers that are available to them whilst they do their job here.

Miss BARTON: Will that extend to world leaders who bring their own people? For example, the President of the United States brings a fairly significant number of people with him and I would imagine that a number of other world leaders will also.

Chief Supt Coleman: The foreign security providers, as we call them, will not have any powers. They will carry out their normal roles in providing protection to their principal, but they will not have any powers under this legislation. They will, however, work very closely with the close personal protection teams that we provide to them. So each of the internationally protected people will have a dedicated close personal protection team made up of Queensland and other jurisdictional police and the Australian Federal Police. The foreign security providers will not have any powers under this legislation.

Mr CHOAT: Has there been much contemplation in terms of dealing with and responding to incidents that may arise outside the subject area—for example, someone decides ‘let’s put on a show down on the Gold Coast’—whilst maintaining protection here?

Assistant Commissioner Carroll: In fact that is what often occurs. We found recently at the G8 in Belfast that protests occurred in London. At the G8 in France the protest occurred in Italy. In Toronto, just to give you a sense of what does happen, they put a perimeter around the venues and where you saw all of that protest going on was not actually anywhere near the event; it was downtown Toronto. If they cannot get through the perimeter, the protest occurs elsewhere. So a lot of our planning is to address that very issue of the protests occurring elsewhere.

Mr CHOAT: I shall tell the mayor of Ipswich to brace himself!

Chief Supt Coleman: Obviously Ipswich is not covered as a declared area. We would use the powers that we have today for that purpose. But with the event being in the middle of Brisbane, the likely place for a targeted protest activity would be the middle of Brisbane. If you have a look at the legislation, the CBD is a part of the declared area. So in the key risk area we will have the additional powers of this legislation for us to deal with those issues.

Mr WATTS: With officers coming from other jurisdictions and them being an authorised person, will they be able to operate in an area that is not a declared area and may be some distance away from a declared area?

Chief Supt Coleman: That depends on the delegation given to them by the commissioner. The commissioner can delegate an authorised officer powers under certain legislation. Our thought process at this point in time is not only for this legislation but also for the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act. So the answer to the question is yes.

CHAIR: In relation to the question of stunts and so forth, have you been liaising with media groups to ensure they know what their position is in relation to this?

Assistant Commissioner Carroll: We have already liaised with a lot of media but we are meeting with all of the editors of the various media outlets to have a close working relationship as we lead into G20. They are some of the issues that will be discussed. But accreditation is a key part of getting into the restricted areas. Our police from interstate and other jurisdictions will be fully briefed that no-one accesses those restricted areas without the right accreditation.

CHAIR: We have concentrated so far on Brisbane. I would be interested to hear your thoughts about Cairns in terms of some of the questions we have asked about restricted areas, declared areas and so forth in light of the demographics of Cairns. Are you able to make any comment about whether that is a more difficult site or an easier site?

Assistant Commissioner Carroll: Graham has had a lot to do with Cairns in recent times so I will let him speak to that.

Chief Supt Coleman: At this point in time we have only one restricted area in Cairns, and that is the Cairns Convention Centre, where the meeting will be. We think Cairns will be an easier proposition for us. We certainly do not need anywhere near the numbers of police that we will have in Brisbane.

Some of the other things that make it easier for us are that the four primary accommodation venues—the four five-star hotels that exist in Cairns—are very close to the meeting area and are in the CBD. From previous information provided to us by the Commonwealth, there is an expectation that there will be a lot of foot traffic between those accommodation venues and the meeting venue. So more people will walk. As you all know, Cairns in September is a beautiful part of the world and I would suggest as well that people would walk. So that will reduce the amount of traffic on the roads. We actually do not intend to have motorcades operating at all in Cairns.

We expect that there may be up to four international protected persons up there but no world leaders. The head of the International Monetary Fund is intending to go, so Christine Lagarde would be entitled to a security envelope. But we will not have the lights and sirens we will have for the world leaders. We will provide a fairly small, discreet security bubble around those vehicle movements. In Cairns, the focus of the way in which we provide the policing service will be a bit different from the way we provide it here.

In Brisbane we have a rather large number of police and all of our special units are here. Cairns is 2,000 kilometres away. It is difficult to get them there. So we will push a lot of our specialist police—our police tactical groups, our public order police—forward to Cairns. We are hoping that we will not use them. We are hoping that we will sit them in the background and they

will not be used. But they will be there and ready to go if the need arises. So if we see protest activity which requires a hard tac. response—a response with shields and helmets—we will have them available but we will not have them anywhere for anyone to see. We are hoping it will be a little more low key.

The one advantage we have for next year is that there are actually two finance ministers meetings in Australia. The first one is in Sydney in February. We intend to send a fairly significant observer program down across all of our capabilities so that we can actually look at how that pans out and what issues they have. That will add to our learning process for our final planning into Cairns and then into Brisbane. I hope that answers the question.

CHAIR: It does. Is there a plan to monitor people travelling from Brisbane to Cairns who might be people of interest?

Chief Supt Coleman: We have a very robust intelligence process which is already developed, not only within Queensland but also across all jurisdictions within Australia including non-policing agencies involved. We are already having regular monthly meetings in relation to the development of intelligence collection plans and the use of that intelligence. In short, I am confident that we will be able to have a good heads-up about who is travelling not only from Brisbane to Cairns but also from Sydney and Melbourne to Brisbane—the individuals who may cause us problems.

Mr CHOAT: Is there a view across the department as to whether there will be ongoing benefit from the skills, knowledge and experience gained such that officers and staff that have been involved will be more able to do other things in their careers as well as to further support our police force in years to come?

Deputy Commissioner Barnett: Absolutely. Whilst this is a huge responsibility for us, there are certainly some legacy benefits that will come for the department. One of those, as you have identified, is that the additional training—in public order, dignitary protection, motorcade driving and a whole range of other specialist capabilities—will be, of necessity, delivered prior to the event. All of those skills will then be ongoing throughout the rest of that officer's career and it does provide the department with enhanced capability to deal with events such as the Commonwealth Games in 2018, which is the next major event on our horizon. So everything we do in terms of preparation, planning and training for the G20 in 2014 is immediately transferrable to the Commonwealth Games in 2018. So it is a great training and legacy program that will deliver for us on the Gold Coast in 2018 as well.

Miss BARTON: I have a question about the public holiday. A public holiday has obviously been declared in Brisbane. I assume it will be similar to the Exhibition public holiday in terms of its declaration and not affecting other zones and so forth. I also note that there was no consultation with groups like the chamber of commerce. I was just wondering why that had come about or whether it was just clear from the outset that the public holiday would be declared.

Deputy Commissioner Barnett: Whilst we understand and regret any financial impediment that might be caused to any business either around the venue or nearby, wherever there is a tension between that sort of an issue and our responsibility to provide a safe and secure environment, in my view security has to prevail in those balance judgements. Whilst it is unfortunate if any individual business suffers any financial detriment, we felt it essential, for the safe and effective management of this event, to have a public holiday. It was recommended on that basis.

CHAIR: There might be a quid pro quo in the sense that you might lose on one day but pick up on others.

Deputy Commissioner Barnett: If it has not already occurred to business holders both around the event and in the CBD more generally, this event offers a potential really significant financial opportunity for them. With the numbers of delegates, media and other visitors who will travel to Brisbane for G20, the beneficial financial impact on the community around Brisbane, and Cairns before it, should not be underestimated. I think it will be a real boom time for people who can take advantage of the opportunity.

CHAIR: I must address that question of headdress and identification. It has been topical from time to time, as it seems to be. Do you have any particular protocols—I am not necessarily dealing with Islam but also Hindu and other religious headwear—in terms of identification of the interested person and so forth?

Deputy Commissioner Barnett: With reference to our recent visit to St Petersburg I can say that the key security document that underpins all other security planning is the accreditation documentation. That was certainly our experience. Accreditation checking was very robust and

frequent. But once that was done, essential free movement inside the venue was able to be achieved. It is a photo identification system that has other security features as well. We cannot achieve proper visual identification without matching the photograph to the person. If we need to ask a person to remove some form of headdress to achieve the visual identification, I am afraid that is the standard that we are asking for and we would need to apply. Otherwise there will be potential failure of security. We had examples when we were in Russia where the assistant commissioner was asked to remove her sunglasses so that at a checkpoint security police could confirm the photo on the accreditation and the person. We think that is reasonable and in fact essential if your police department is going to provide world leaders with the standard of security that they expect and that we have promised to deliver.

CHAIR: Assistant Commissioner, well done on the testing of procedures over there!

Mr DILLAWAY: Are there provisions in the bill to allow for that to occur with the headdress?

Chief Supt Coleman: Yes, there are.

Mr DILLAWAY: We have spoken about authorised persons. We have spoken about interstate and New Zealanders coming over here and assisting through the G20 summit, particularly here in Brisbane for the leaders. I also note that there are appointed persons who are available to ensure that their security is upheld. I did note that the commissioner has the ability to appoint an appointed person if they have completed a course of training recognised by the commissioner or have the necessary expertise or experience to be an appointed person. I was wondering if you could give us some examples of what a training course might very well be and then also what experience would be necessary for those people to be deemed an appointed person. I think the concerns of the community are, 'You are wearing a uniform. Yes, I'll follow your directions,' but whether or not they are going to understand what an appointed person is.

Assistant Commissioner Carroll: There are only two categories of people who may be asked to be an appointed person. That would be tier 1 security or members of the ADF. They are already in a position of authority. They would only be given some very, very limited powers and will be operating under the supervision of a police officer. Some of those where an example might arise are with a tier 1 security person, when you go into the BC&EC, just to give that person a little bit of extra power to do their role, because really they do not have any legislation at all. They are really the only instances that I can see very, very, basic legislation to assist us in our roles.

I note that there was a letter that came from the Brisbane City Council asking whether they would be appointed persons. That would not be the case at all. I do not see that happening. So it is very, very limited to a couple of groups of people and very much under the supervision of police. Sorry, just to extend a further to answer to your question, the training would be very basic along those lines.

Chief Supt Coleman: You spoke about not only the legislation but the experience. In our negotiations with the Commonwealth task force in relation to the tender that is going out for tier 1 security—so security officers—we have ensured that the legislation that exists in Queensland in relation to a security provider, that that is the minimum level of standard that is required. So as far as experience is concerned, if they do not have the current legislative requirements as a security provider in Queensland, they cannot get that job as a tier 1 security officer anyway. So there will be that on top of the information that the assistant commissioner has just given you.

Mr DILLAWAY: And as far as the security checks of those individuals—because they are actually physically housed in many cases within the actual convention areas—are there additional methods of ensuring that those tier 1 security officers through those groups are going to go under further checks than normal?

Chief Supt Coleman: Through the accreditation process, anyone who gets accreditation to enter a restricted area will undergo a couple of levels of police checks. One is conducted by Queensland by the Queensland Police Service and would be checks for information that we have. Then there will be the federal government level with information that they have. So the first check they go through is a federal government level. If they are cleared at that level they then come to us. We will do the security checks and if we find that there are no issues with them, we provide that advice to the Commonwealth task force. If we find that there is an issue with an individual, which may be of concern, we provide the task force with our concerns or what that information is. But in relation to the decision to issue the accreditation, that is for the Commonwealth task force only. We have no say in whether accreditation is issued. We just provide them with the information for them to make those decisions. So, yes, they and everyone else will go through that process.

Mr DILLAWAY: Is the Commonwealth task force privy to information that is available from the New South Wales Police Service and other jurisdictions within Australia?

Chief Supt Coleman: Because of the systems that we have, that information is available to them. There are certain parts of information that each jurisdictional police may not share with other jurisdictions, but on the whole there is a sharing of information across the police jurisdictions, which will allow us to provide information from a central database in relation to those people.

Mr DILLAWAY: Thank you.

Mr WATTS: May I ask a question? In relation to people coming from other jurisdictions, what uniform will they be wearing? Will there be any Queensland issued identification in terms of a numbering or whatever if anybody wants to make a complaint against someone?

Assistant Commissioner Carroll: We have done a fair bit of research into what uniforms people will wear. People will actually come in their own uniform, but what we have decided and going on the research we just did in Belfast and G8—this has not been approved by the commissioner yet; we are just in the process of it—we will get probably a cap or police hat that makes it common. We will have eight jurisdictions here all up—Australian Federal Police and New Zealand and the other states. So there will be a cap that will identify us all as police with 'Police' written across the cap plus the chequered badge plus probably a G20 logo on the side. So we will all be identified as police officers. On top of that they will be expected to wear their normal identification as to who they are. In other states it might just be their registered number or their name. So they are expected to wear their own uniform but then a cap that puts us under the one police banner, so to speak. So if there are any issues, everyone should be identified easily.

Mr WATTS: Will that cap have a unique numbering or identification? Will we be able to isolate that particular officer?

Deputy Commissioner Barnett: If I could just address what I think your concerns may be? Obviously, these police officers will not be operating in isolation. They will be in groups commanded by a Queensland police officer. Obviously, this is going to take place in an environment of extremely intense CCTV surveillance as well as intense media coverage. So I am sure if there is an incident involving police that could possibly give rise to a complaint about use of force, or other issues which I think is what you may be referring to, I do not believe identification of officers from elsewhere is going to be an issue for us.

Mr WATTS: I think there are two issues: yes, the one that you have addressed but also someone posing as a police officer. Would our current provisions of someone impersonating a police officer be covered if they were wearing a uniform of another jurisdiction?

Chief Supt Coleman: What you say could be correct, but one of the things that we are going to do is we are going to accredit all of our police. So police will be issued with accreditation to identify which police would be entitled to go into the particular venues. The last thing we want is for a police officer, who wants to go to see a world leader, to just wander off into the BC&EC by themselves. We are going to have accreditation that allows access into those restricted areas, but the accreditation will also be used for our transport system. So on top of every police officer wearing their uniform with a name badge or a number badge, which is unique to themselves, they will also have to carry accreditation for the event as well.

Miss BARTON: I just wondered on the basis of your experience in Russia if you could estimate how many people we might have in terms of the size of the delegations and, of course, the media attention that will be coming from around the world and so forth?

Assistant Commissioner Carroll: Certainly. Whilst the exact figures were very difficult to extract in Russia, the media was certainly in the thousands. Anywhere between 1,800 to 3,000 was the estimation. Delegations, also in the thousands. Some countries will bring delegations from anywhere from 600 to 800 while other countries might bring 40 or 50. So we have estimated 3,000 media and 4,000 in terms of delegations. I will think at this stage that is a very, very fair estimate from what we saw in Russia and from what previous experience has shown us.

CHAIR: In terms of people entering restricted areas who are employees, have contingencies been made—and I assume they are so it is really a rhetorical question but I need to hear the answer—in relation to sickness, replacement employees et cetera, because that obviously can be difficult.

Assistant Commissioner Carroll: There is obviously the accreditation process for all employees at all venues. However, if a person was to go sick at the last minute and there was required someone else who had to be accredited, we will have a system in place at the BC&EC Brisbane

where urgent accreditation can be done as quickly as possible. Our intelligence people will be there to do the checks as well as accreditation. The task force will be there to issue an urgent accreditation pass. So that has already been planned for. Just to go on from that: I understand media are always renowned for having last-minute accreditation done. That is the research around the world. So that has been addressed.

CHAIR: I think you have probably already answered this question—you have certainly implied it. Within the restricted areas you are going to have random checks? Is that the thrust of it? So you are going to be walking along and you will see somebody who perhaps might have a headaddress on?

Assistant Commissioner Carroll: Within a restricted area—and we found this in Russia as well—you should have clearly marked your accreditation pass. When a security officer or a police officer is within that restricted area, if that accreditation pass does not match to the person who is wearing it, you will be speaking to that person immediately. If that person did not have accreditation, you would also be addressing that person immediately. In fact, what we found in Russia—and certainly it will happen here—is that security were constantly looking at your accreditation and looking at your face to make sure that they matched. I expect that would be exactly how we would be doing business as well.

CHAIR: And the accreditation is difficult to counterfeit?

Assistant Commissioner Carroll: Very difficult. It has certain ID features in it and also a chip that identifies that person to you. In fact, when you go through the various points—and I am certain that we will be doing it from what I understand speaking to the task force in a very similar manner—when you go through the security checkpoints they have a wand system that passes over your accreditation and your face and your details come up on the wand and it matches to that and to your facial features.

CHAIR: The identifications will be given to persons within a restricted area beforehand, on the day, or the start of the conference?

Assistant Commissioner Carroll: Yes, normally at the start of the event. We got our accreditation given to us when we arrived in Russia. Accreditation opens for the event a couple of weeks before the event—a little bit longer maybe—and shuts just prior to the event. Normally what would happen when a delegation comes into the country they are given the accreditation to go to the event.

CHAIR: I see. Always difficult, of course, is your planning and then for a police officer to be confronted with the situation. One way to partly deal with it is a rehearsal scenario, briefs and so forth. Is there anything planned to ensure that we have our police force in a position where they can at least have some experience at unusual situations?

Assistant Commissioner Carroll: In terms of—

CHAIR: Restricted areas. I think you have covered it partly. I just was not sure as to the level of training or your staff.

Deputy Commissioner Barnett: I will defer to the assistant commissioner in a moment, but just as an overall comment we recognise the need to have a very rigorous exercise and training regime for the event. That is already one underway. We have already had a number of discussion exercises and they will encompass all aspects of any possible security response to all incidents. It is probably an opportune time to mention to the committee that, whilst being fully respectful of the appropriate passage of this legislation through the parliament, we have a strict training regime set for the calendar year 2014. Should there be a delay in the delivery of this legislation, should it pass the House, that will have some downstream impact on the planning that we have prepared throughout 2014. I just thought I would make the committee aware of that and I will defer to the assistant commissioner.

CHAIR: Perhaps we should defer to the member for Rockhampton.

Mr BYRNE: I do not think there is going to be—

Assistant Commissioner Carroll: Just to go on from that, the training calendar is extensive. We have to train, just on legislation, over 5,000 people and, as we mentioned before, dignitary protection training for the drivers, crowd management training probably for 2,000, 3,000 people at least. So the training is extensive over the next 12 months. Together with that, there is an exercise

package that is also at the Commonwealth level, the state level and the local levels. Those exercises have commenced but we have two major exercises—one in November and July next year—that goes from the tactical level right through to the strategic level. Literally thousands of people will be involved in those exercises for the next 15 months as well.

CHAIR: So after this meeting we can expect to lose some of our police officers to the next G20? I make that comment glibly.

Miss BARTON: I just had another question with regard to preparation for the event. Obviously, no-one wants to see the most catastrophic of events happen, but if they do, presumably, you will have measures in place, having already liaised with local hospitals and emergency personnel and so forth? I am just wondering if you might be able to detail some of those.

Chief Supt Coleman: There is a Health working group, which is chaired by Queensland Health and involves the Queensland Police Service. As a part of that, if there was to be an issue with a world leader we have identified a hospital, because obviously there are a whole range of security processes around that. We have also identified places where we could take police officers if they are injured and where we could take members of the public if they are injured. The plan is a work in progress. There is still some work to be done on it, but the working group is meeting every month and we are certainly making headway in relation to plans if there are injuries as a result of any activities associated with the G20.

CHAIR: Does anybody else have any questions they wish to ask?

Miss BARTON: Have you spoken to the ABC about *The Chaser*?

Assistant Commissioner Carroll: *The Chaser* is not going to happen at this event.

Chief Supt Coleman: Can I just add to that? That is another lesson we have learnt. Instead of checking the credentials of moving motorcades at the gates, we have a process in place where we will check them a little bit earlier than that so that if we do pick up an issue such as *The Chaser* then we can take appropriate action before it gets to the gate and is an embarrassment to the event and to our organisation.

CHAIR: You might remind them of their bail conditions, perhaps.

Miss BARTON: Half of them are lawyers anyway.

CHAIR: Deputy Commissioner Barnett, before we close the briefing, you indicated that you wish to make a closing statement and I invite you to do so

Deputy Commissioner Barnett: If I may just speak to the committee in closing, the G20 meeting is a unique event that will showcase Queensland, its people and its lifestyle. At the same time the G20 meeting will involve the biggest peacetime security operation in Australia's history. The QPS recognises its responsibility and the community's expectation to provide the safest possible environment during G20 whilst finely balancing that expectation with individual rights and freedoms.

The QPS has placed before the committee a bill which provides the necessary powers and provisions to assist in ensuring the safety and security of the G20 meeting, events and delegates, members of the public and private and public property. As members of the committee would be aware, historically G20 gatherings have attracted large and sometimes violent protests over various global and economic issues. The G20 bill remedies the deficiencies in available police powers and provisions and adapts the lessons learnt from past G20 events. The QPS genuinely believes that the enhanced powers and provisions sought in this bill are necessary to protect persons attending the G20 meetings and events, to protect members of the public and their property from acts of civil disobedience and crime and to prevent acts of terrorism. At the same time we are cognisant of the importance of civil liberties and of limiting the disruptions that are inevitable with an event of this magnitude. To this extent the bill has been designed to specifically meet the challenges that are attached while hosting the G20 meetings. It is a stand-alone piece of legislation with a limited operation, expiring at the end of the G20 period.

It is acknowledged that the granting of additional powers carries with it the requirement that those powers are applied responsibly, fairly and efficiently. Appropriate delegations and approval mechanisms have been included in the bill. Policies and procedures will be drafted and applied and extensive training will be provided to all officers well in advance of the G20 events. It is my respectful submission to the committee that the bill currently placed before you reflects the fine balance that we are striving to achieve between the protection of essential civil liberties and our responsibility to provide a safe and secure platform for the G20 events and the community.

In closing I would like to provide the community with some independent support for the organisational maturity and professionalism of their police department through this quote from Mr Terry O’Gorman at the 2011 Courier-Mail Law and Order Forum. Mr O’Gorman was a member of the committee that reviewed the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act and, as you know, has in the past and continues to question and challenge aspects of Police Service behaviour and practice. In that context these comments are significant and I quote what he had to say—

Certainly in the 35 years that I have been a criminal defence lawyer I have seen professionalisation of the Queensland Police Service that has gone from almost one extreme to the other. Can I say that the Police Service we have now is vastly different from when I grew up in the seventies. Whilst there are still some problems, the Queensland Police Service of 2011 is radically different and much better than the Queensland Police Service of 1976 and I suspect that is part of the reason why Queensland police have such a high clear-up rate because there is a saying that a police commissioner from the seventies in the UK said ‘You have policing by consent. If you’ve got the community with you, you will get, as a Police Service, vital pieces of information.’ So there has been great improvement and we’re all the better for it.

Thank you for the opportunity to present before you.

CHAIR: Thank you, Deputy Commissioner. I would like to thank the officials from the Queensland Police Service for their attendance today and the work that they have done in addressing the issues on the bill and the committee’s questions. I do not believe there is any issue that has been left unaddressed. However, with your consent if there is any issue that the committee may ask would you mind if we followed it up in writing? I also thank any members of the public here today and viewing the proceedings online for their interest in the work of the committee. I might just make one flippant comment in relation to Senior Sergeant John Henderson: you got off very lightly, my friend. I now declare the committee’s public briefing for the examination of the G20 (Safety and Security) Bill 2013 closed. Thank you.

Committee adjourned at 10.50 am