A Tim Nicholls-led Liberal National Government will make Queensland the safest place to live and raise a family and that means tackling organised criminals head-on, to prevent and disrupt their activity and drive them out of the state.

The Problem

Labor’s soft approach to organised crime is akin to rolling out the red carpet and welcoming bikie gangs and other criminal thugs back to Queensland. It began with another farcical Labor review, with terms of reference designed to “repeal and replace” the LNP laws that were working to make Queenslanders safer.

The problem with Labor’s response is highlighted by their record – tough talk but laws that led to no criminal organisations being declared and gang crime flourishing. Labor are heavy on rhetoric but soft on crime.

Labor’s softly, softly approach is putting the safety of Queensland families at risk.

Our Record

We are unapologetic about our strong stance on organised crime and keeping Queenslanders safe.

In 2012, an innocent woman was shot in the crossfire of a bikie turf war while doing her shopping at Robina on the Gold Coast. In September 2013, 50 Bandidos started a brawl in a Broadbeach restaurant on a Friday night in front of families dining with their children during the school holidays. They then laid siege to the local police station demanding their bikie mates be let out. Eighteen people were arrested and seven injured including four police officers.

The community rightly demanded a strong and swift response and the LNP Government acted. In government, the LNP introduced the nation’s toughest organised crime laws, which were then copied by other states such as South Australia.

The result was a dramatic reduction in crime across the Gold Coast and Queensland. Criminal gangs fled interstate and overseas and the laws were the first of their kind to be upheld in the High Court.

Our Real Plan

A Tim Nicholls-led LNP Government will restore the laws that were working to keep families safe. By ensuring the Queensland Police Service and Crime and Corruption Commission have the tools they need to effectively tackle organised crime we will build safe and liveable communities. This includes reinstating five key reforms that underpinned the LNP’s approach:

1. Stop, Search and Detain Powers
   Allowing a police officer who reasonably suspects a person is a participant in a criminal organisation to stop, search and detain that person without warrant.

2. Anti-Association
   Ensuring that any person who is in a criminal organisation and is knowingly present in a public place with two or more persons who are participants in a criminal organisation, commits an offence. Minimum penalty is six months, maximum is three years.

3. Keep Clubhouses Closed
   Ensuring that any person who is a participant in a criminal organisation and enters, or attempts to enter, a prescribed place commits an offence. Minimum penalty is six months, maximum is three years.

4. CCC Coercive Powers
   Restoring strong coercive powers to ensure that immediate response hearings are an effective law enforcement tool and stronger penalties are in place for any contempt.

5. Stronger Bail Laws
   If the defendant is a participant in a criminal organisation, the court or police officer must refuse to grant bail unless the defendant shows cause why custody is not justified.

The only way to effectively deal with organised crime is to have tough laws and proper resources targeted at busting up organised crime – whether the criminals are bikie gangs, paedophile rings or underworld crime bosses.

To learn more about Our Plan visit www.timnicholls.com.au
Frequently Asked Questions

What were the crime statistics for 2014, when the previous LNP laws were in effect?
As a result of the strong laws and additional resources provided by the LNP Government in late 2013, crime rates across the state dramatically dropped.

Across Queensland in 2014, this meant the following crime statistics were achieved:

- Assaults reduced by 3.7%
- Robbery reduced by 24.8%
- Unlawful entry reduced by 17.4%
- Car theft reduced by 19.4%.

In all, 696 fewer Queenslanders were assaulted, 434 fewer Queenslanders were robbed, 6960 fewer homes were broken into and 2244 fewer cars were stolen.

What has the Crime and Corruption Commission said about Labor’s approach to organised crime?

In response to the Taskforce set up by Labor to repeal and replace the laws that were working to better protect Queensland from organised crime, the Crime and Corruption Commission Chairperson made the following observation:

“It is clear from the recent developments that several clubs (including three major clubs) have been actively recruiting new members on the Gold Coast. The timing of the recruitment activities suggests that, following the change of government in January 2015, it is perceived by clubs that there is a softening of the stance against outlaw motorcycle gang activity. While there is no evidence obtained as to the particular factors which have contributed to this resurgence, it may be inferred that OMCGs perceive that the laws will be repealed or reduced, and are positioning themselves to take control of ‘turf’ once any relaxation occurs.”

Have any other governments adopted the approach taken by the LNP in Queensland?

Yes. The South Australian Labor Deputy Premier and Attorney-General John Rau has previously described the LNP laws as the “magic formula” for dealing with organised crime and has begun to implement tranches of the laws, as has the Victorian Government.

What was the view of the Queensland Police Service in relation to LNP laws, introduced in 2013?

In a submission to the Taskforce that reviewed the LNP laws, the QPS said:

“Removing and reducing the existing suite of legislation provided to enable the QPS and others to respond to organised crime, without the introduction of improved and more effective legislative tools, will reduce the capability of the QPS to respond, a consequential reduction in public safety, with a flow through impact on community confidence in police and government.”

Authorised by L.Folo. 66-68 Bowen Street, Spring Hill QLD 4000.

Together, Let’s Build a Better Queensland

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