



# QUEENSLAND COUNCIL FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES

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## **MEDIA RELEASE BY TERRY O'GORMAN VICE-PRESIDENT QUEENSLAND COUNCIL FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES**

The Civil Liberties Council today described proposed new anti bikie laws as 'politicians' spin' and 'an exercise in gesture politics'.

"What Friday night was all about was a reflection of what the Police Union have been complaining about for ages – inadequate police numbers on the Gold Coast", QCCL Vice President Terry O'Gorman said.

Mr O'Gorman said that the Police Minister's response to a fight in public said to be between rival motor cycle club members was over the top and an invitation to police to break the law.

"The rule of law provides that bikies or anyone else involved in public fights should be put before the Courts. The rule of law also provides that all citizens, whether bikies or anyone else, cannot be randomly seized from restaurants or their beds as suggested by the Police Minister unless they are actually breaking the law" Mr O'Gorman said.

Mr O'Gorman also described media reports of the aftermath of Friday night's incident as relying on quotes from so-called anonymous bikies, the truth and credibility of which could not be properly assessed.

"No accredited bikie leader has said anything on the record about involvement in or responding to Friday night's events let alone about bikies taking control of the Gold Coast Community" Mr O'Gorman said.

Mr O'Gorman said that for the Premier to suddenly find \$20 million to deal with policing issues on the Gold Coast was a cynical exercise in political spin and PR.

"The Police Union have been crying out for well over 12 months for extra police resources on the glitter strip especially at peak times such as weekend and at the top of the tourist season" Mr O'Gorman said.

Mr O'Gorman also criticised proposed new so-called RICO and other laws which are to be rushed through Cabinet today.

"There is no demonstrated need for such laws especially with the recent passage of unexplained wealth laws through the Qld Parliament and the first scheduled Supreme Court hearing in a number of weeks under the so-called anti bikie laws where police are seeking to have the Finks declared an illegal organisation" Mr O'Gorman said.

*Watching them while they are watching you!*

"There is already a significant array of laws and police powers available to deal with Gold Coast public disorder. The real problem is the failure of the Newman Government to respond to constant Police Union calls for greater police numbers on the Gold Coast" Mr O'Gorman said.

**Mr O'Gorman can be contacted during business hours on 07 3034 0000 or after hours on 0418 787182.**

MEDIA RELEASE 130930 ANTI BIKIE LAWS TOGKP