

27 April 2015

Our ref 339/55

Crime and Corruption Commission
Review of the G20 (Safety and Security) Act 2013
GPO Box 3123
Brisbane QLD 4001
Australia

By post and email: mailbox@ccc.qld.gov.au

Dear G20 Act Review team

Crime and Corruption Commission review of the G20 (Safety and Security) Act 2013

Thank you for providing the Society with the opportunity to comment on the Crime and Corruption Commission's Review of the *G20 (Safety and Security) Act 2013* and providing an extension for submissions.

Please note that in the time available to the Society and the commitments of our committee members, it is not suggested that this submission represents an exhaustive review of the Act. We note that this submission has been made with the assistance of the Criminal Law Committee.

1. Introductory comments

We reiterate the concerns expressed in the Society's submission on the *G20 (Safety and Security) Bill 2013* to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee dated 13 September 2013 (**enclosed**). This submission notes in great detail the Society's objection to the new and enhanced powers and limitations of individual rights and liberties.

2. What legislative framework will best provide for the safety and security of large-scale events in Queensland in the future?

The Society does not support the view of the previous Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee reproduced below:

It [the Committee] is not satisfied that the current powers available to the QPS under the *Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000* (PPRA)² are sufficient to cater for the G20 event and that the policy objectives being pursued by the [G20] Bill are necessary to ensure the safe conduct of the G20 meetings in Queensland in September and November 2014.

In our view, the current provisions for special events are appropriate to deal with G20 type events. The Society notes that special provisions in relation to safety at special events are already provided for in Chapter 19, Part 2 of the *Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000* ('preserving safety for special events'). This includes specific powers regarding:

- Declaration of special events;
- Statutory conditions relating to entry to special event sites;
- Powers for special event sites (including power to require reasons for entry, use of electronic screening devices and frisk searches of persons); and
- Offence provisions (discussed later in the submission).

Since the holding of the G20 event, new legislation has been enacted to cover G20 like events. For example, the *Major Events Act 2014* states that the main purposes of this Act are—

- (a) to enable the State to hold major events in Queensland; and
- (b) to deliver economic and social benefits for the State of Queensland by attracting major events to Queensland; and
- (c) to facilitate the safe and orderly running of major events; and
- (d) to promote the enjoyment of participants and spectators of major events; and
- (e) to prevent unauthorised commercial activities in relation to major events; and
- (f) to allow visiting health practitioners to be exempted from having to register under State law when practising a health profession for a visitor.

Furthermore, the reports received from our member practitioners suggest that the majority of police powers exercised during the G20 events were performed under the *Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000* legislation.

As such, it is the view of the Queensland Law Society that the current legislative framework is adequate to deal with G20 events and no further expansion of police powers are required for future events.

Yours faithfully



Michael Fitzgerald

President