



SENATOR THE HON DAVID JOHNSTON

MINISTER FOR JUSTICE AND CUSTOMS

MEDIA RELEASE

DJ023/07

EMBARGO TILL 8:30pm - 19th of June 2007

GOVERNMENT MOVES ON OUTLAW MOTORCYCLE GANGS

The Australian Government has moved to put the issue of outlaw motorcycle gangs on the national agenda, Minister for Justice and Customs, David Johnston said.

“I will be requesting the issue of outlaw motorcycle gangs be placed on the agenda for the Ministerial Council for Police and Emergency Management in New Zealand next week,” Senator Johnston said.

The Ministerial Council for Police and Emergency Management brings together Police Ministers across all Australian jurisdictions.

“Outlaw motorcycle gangs are a significant organised crime issue in Australia, one the Australian Government takes very seriously. This is why I want to discuss this at next week’s council meeting,” Senator Johnston said.

The Australian Government has already begun working towards building an effective way of dealing with organised crime gangs.

“In May, I wrote to the Chair of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on the Australian Crime Commission to look at ways to learn from other countries, especially in response to outlaw motorcycle gangs,” Senator Johnston said.

“Law enforcement agencies in Europe and North America are able to draw upon legislation such as criminal organisation offences, and we should draw on any lessons they have for effective responses.

“I’m not interested in symbolic gestures; I’m interested in taking organised crime gangs off the streets.

“To have effective laws in place we have to work closely with State and Territory authorities, to ensure crime gangs are shut down.

“I want to work closely with my counterparts in other jurisdictions to ensure the sort of tragedy we witnessed yesterday never happens again.

“These gangs are only concerned with the commercialisation of crime, through drug trafficking, money laundering, and violence.”

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