1. The Member for Gregory Mr Vaughan Johnson MP, introduced the Child Protection (More Stringent Offender Reporting) Amendment Bill 2010 as a Private Member’s Bill on 14 April 2010.
2. The Private Member’s Bill proposes to increase the reporting requirements for offenders, restructure penalties for non-compliance and release the information of offenders for non-compliance.
3. The Private Member’s Bill is not supported as:
* there is no evidence to support intensifying periodical reporting will result in increased compliance and therefore no justification for the significant expenditure it will require; and there is also concern that it will divert police from proactive intelligence-driven compliance management to less effective scheduled management of offenders;
* the proposal to introduce a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment for failure to comply with periodical face-to-face reporting overlooks the importance and combined effect of all reporting obligations, and is inconsistent with Ministerial Council for Police and Emergency Management - Police and the Queensland Police Service (QPS) recommendations to increase all non-compliance offences to five years imprisonment, which are supported by the Government;
* requiring that a court should consider imposing a sentence of imprisonment instead of any other sentence is ambiguous and the intent is unclear. The Government supports the independence and discretion of the judiciary in the sentencing of offenders; and
* requiring details of missing offenders to be published on the QPS website overlooks research which reveals that widespread and uncontrolled community notification strategies increase the likelihood of reportable offenders going “underground” and withdrawing from the agencies that are involved with them to the overall detriment of compliance management and public safety.
1. Cabinet decided to oppose the Child Protection (More Stringent Offender Reporting) Amendment Bill 2010.
2. *Attachments*
* [Child Protection (More Stringent Offender Reporting) Amendment Bill 2010](Attachments/Bill.pdf)
* [Explanatory Notes](Attachments/ExNotes.pdf)