1. The 2018 Commonwealth Games (the Games) are to be hosted on the Gold Coast between 4 and 15 April 2018 with events also being held in Brisbane, Cairns and Townsville. The Queensland Police Service is partnering with the Office of the Commonwealth Games and the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Corporation to plan and deliver the security and public safety response for the Games.
2. A regulation under the *Major Events Act 2014* (MEA) would prescribe the Games as a major event. The regulation would also prescribe Games major event areas and controlled areas and which MEA powers will apply to those areas. Although the MEA provides sufficient powers to create a safe and secure environment within a Games major event area, the MEA does not address security requirements in other public areas associated with the Games where mass gatherings of people will occur, such as designated pedestrian routes to venues and at public transport hubs. General police powers within the *Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000* (PPRA) also do not address the unique security issues associated with the Games, particularly in the current security environment.
3. The Bill amends the PPRA to provide additional police powers to protect people in areas, other than major event areas, where mass gatherings of people are expected for the Games (‘protective security zones’). The Bill includes the following:
* prescribing protective security zones by regulation or declaring protective security zones by the Commissioner of Police, with the approval of the Minister, in urgent situations;
* power for a police officer to:
* search a person in a protective security zone;
* stop, detain and search vehicles entering or in a protective security zone;
* enter and search premises, excluding residential premises, in a protective security zone without warrant;
* use firearms and explosives detection dogs to search public places, premises that are not residences and yards of private places in protective security zones; and
* give a general direction to persons in a public place in a protective security zone to ensure the safety of persons in the zone; and
* exempt police from completing enforcement registers for searches conducted within protective security zones or under the MEA.
1. The additional police powers only apply to police officers and lapse one week after the Games end, apart from the exemption from completing enforcement registers for searches under the MEA which continue to apply to future major events.
2. Cabinet approved the introduction of the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Commonwealth Games) Amendment Bill 2017 into the Legislative Assembly.
3. *Attachments*
* [Police Powers and Responsibilities (Commonwealth Games) Amendment Bill 2017](Attachments/Bill.PDF)
* [Explanatory Notes](Attachments/ExNotes.PDF)