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## Lengthy imprisonment for drugs charges

A 60-year-old Rockhampton man, James O'Brien, was yesterday sentenced to 14 years imprisonment by the Brisbane Supreme Court for trafficking a dangerous drug and seven charges of production of a dangerous drug, namely methylamphetamine.

Mr O'Brien, senior office bearer and life member of an outlaw motorcycle gang, was declared a serious violent offender and will be eligible for parole after serving 11 years and three months imprisonment.

His arrest and charge follows a joint operation between the Australian Crime Commission (ACC) and the Queensland Police Service (QPS), with the ACC's specialist coercive powers critical to the success of the investigation. A number of significant drug commodities and precursor chemicals were seized during the course of the investigation including over 12 kilograms of pseudoephedrine.

A 36-year-old Gold Coast man was also yesterday sentenced to 10 ½ years imprisonment by the Brisbane Supreme Court for trafficking a dangerous drug namely cocaine and MDMA.

William Betham pleaded guilty to the charge and was declared a serious violent offender, with a non parole period of eight year and three months.

The National Crime Authority first detected Mr Betham trafficking large quantities of ecstasy and his involvement in a proposal to distribute five kilograms of cocaine in 2002. He was later detected by the ACC and QPS for supplying 3,400 ecstasy tablets in 2003.

ACC Chief Executive Officer Alastair Milroy said the joint operation between the ACC and QPS has disrupted the trafficking of illicit drugs in Queensland and demonstrates the successful results that can be achieved under the joint partnership arrangements.

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