

Queensland Community Safety Bill 2024

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Submitted by: Inga Gibson
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Dear Sir/Madam,

Regarding the proposed Queensland Community Safety 2024 Bill.

This Bill proposes to amend at least 12 different Acts, is over 100 pages long and community consultation is only another few days. It gives additional ability to strip fire arm licenses from holders, it gives authorities power to force people to take down media posts that the Government does not like and it expands the situation where police can search without a warrant. The explanation is worded very nicely to make me feel that it is for the public's own safety. My concern is that very easily it can be used to restrict my freedom and restrict my safety from Police.

I believe that during the Covid event that the greatest harm to civil liberties were the bringing into power Bills that greatly decreased a Queenslander's freedom. This Bill to me is another tightening up of our freedom. The reason I live in Queensland is because of the many freedoms of choice I felt in this State. I have no doubt that many terrible and unwell posts are put on the internet. I have no doubt that I would not agree with many of them. If all people are not allowed to have their say, no matter how unwell that is, then we are no longer living in a Democracy. The freedom of speech is very important to me.

The Police have many powers. There seems to be very little that they can do to Help and Protect a person who is law abiding. I have always lived in the Bush and I have never felt protected by the police. Quiet country towns in Queensland have become unsafe to be in, Townsville being one of them. My perception is that the Police take the low hanging fruit, the general person doing the wrong thing occasionally and leave the too hard cases, the break and entries and the car stealing, shop robberies and other criminal activity to operate without much obstruction. Tightening up gun laws will not enhance this situation. Criminals know that very few people now can defend themselves and the risk of getting hurt is much reduced. There seems to be little negative consequence to criminals and the restrictions on mostly law abiding citizens wanting freedom of speech and safely to be living their best life, keep getting tighter and tighter.

It is not easy to get a fire arms license. It is a process during which each applicant is screened for suitability. Unless the holder uses that fire arm in an unlawful way then that should be the end of the process. It is illegal already to hold a fire arm without a license for that particular gun. What new power does a Firearm Prohibition Order do that the current laws do not cover?

This Bill covers too many Bills for it to be rushed through the legislative process. That raises questions to me, that this is not a Democratic process, that this Government wants tighter and tighter control of its citizens freedoms.

Yours sincerely Inga Gibson

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