

Queensland Community Safety Bill 2024

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee](#)
Subject: Submission Regarding the Queensland Community Safety Bill 2024
Date: Monday, 13 May 2024 3:46:49 PM

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express my objection to several provisions in the Queensland Community Safety Bill 2024, which I believe could significantly and adversely affect law-abiding firearms owners and impact broader civil liberties. Below, I outline my main points of concern and request careful reconsideration of these clauses.

****1. Doubling of License Application Disqualification Period (Division 2, Clause 56)****

The proposal to extend the disqualification period for certain criminal convictions from 5 years to 10 years lacks a grandfathering provision. This could lead to individuals who have been rehabilitated and have demonstrated their reform by holding a license for years under the current legislation being stripped of their license and firearms. For instance, someone who was convicted six years ago and obtained a gun license after serving the initial disqualification period would unfairly lose their license.

****2. License Disqualification Applies Even for Withdrawn or Quashed DVOs (Division 2, Clause 58 (5)(b))****

This clause fails to consider situations where domestic violence orders (DVOs) are withdrawn or quashed. The potential for DVOs to be manipulated by abusive partners could doubly victimize a licensed gun owner. This provision could inadvertently empower manipulative behavior and unfairly penalize innocent individuals.

****3. Broad Criteria for Firearm Prohibition Orders (FPOs)****

The criteria for issuing FPOs are overly broad and could encompass individuals who are merely related to or associate with a recognized offender. The definitions in S141E (2)(d) and S141E (4) are concerning as they could lead to FPOs being applied to family members or coworkers without any direct wrongdoing on their part. Additionally, S141(2) (e) could target firearm owners for their online interactions or misconstrued comments.

****4. Removal of Social Media Content (S745D)****

The provisions for police-ordered takedown of content involving "an offence with a weapon" are too broad and could be misused against lawful activities like hunting or range shooting. The risk of misinterpretation and forced removal of legal content is high, especially for individuals engaging in activities abroad that are legal in those jurisdictions but not in Queensland.

****5. Warrantless Searches Related to FPO Subjects (Section 141ZF and 141ZG)****

The power for warrantless searches of vehicles and premises related to FPO subjects is excessive and lacks safeguards for innocent individuals. The potential for intrusive searches of unrelated individuals in shared vehicles or properties owned but not inhabited by FPO subjects raises significant concerns about privacy and due process.

In conclusion, while the intent of enhancing community safety is commendable, the Bill's current form poses risks to the rights of law-abiding citizens and could lead to unintended consequences. I urge the committee to consider narrowing the scope of these provisions to protect the rights of all Queenslanders effectively.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Respectfully,

Hayden Otto

