

Queensland Community Safety Bill 2024

Submission No: 75
Submitted by: Daniel Lim Bromilow
Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

Submission Opposing the Proposed Queensland Community Safety Bill 2024

To the Honourable Members of the Queensland Parliament, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed Queensland Community Safety Bill 2024. As a concerned citizen and lawful firearms licensee, I find the proposed changes not only disproportionately punitive to law-abiding citizens but also a concerning infringement on our civil liberties. The legislation, as currently proposed, seeks to enact sweeping reforms that would impact not only firearms licensees but also the broader spectrum of civil liberties that Australians hold dear. By potentially reducing the number of firearms licenses and amending at least 12 different Acts—including the Weapons Act, the Explosives Act, the Criminal Code, and the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act—this bill introduces punitive measures that predominantly affect compliant, law-abiding citizens rather than targeting the root causes of criminal activity associated with illegal firearms possession and use.

Concerns with the Proposed Legislation

- 1. Punitive Measures Against Law-Abiding Citizens:** The bill proposes measures that could see firearms licenses revoked not based on the licensee's actions but rather as a result of the actions of their family members. This approach is not only unjust but also ineffectively addresses the issue of preventing criminal misuse of firearms.
- 2. Restrictions on Freedom of Speech:** Mandating the removal of social media posts deemed undesirable by authorities encroaches upon the fundamental right to freedom of expression. Such provisions are susceptible to subjective interpretation and abuse, leading to a chilling effect on free speech.
- 3. Expansion of Police Powers Without Warrant:** The bill's provision to expand the situations in which police can search individuals without a warrant poses a significant threat to personal privacy and civil liberties. Such powers should be carefully balanced with the need to protect individual rights and subject to strict oversight to prevent abuse.

Recommendations

- 1. Target Criminal Elements, Not Law-Abiding Citizens:** Legislative efforts should focus on addressing the root causes of illegal firearms possession and misuse without imposing unreasonable restrictions on those who comply with existing laws and regulations.
- 2. Ensure Adequate Consultation:** Given the bill's vast implications, a fortnight's comment period is insufficient for thorough public consultation and review. An extended period will allow for a more democratic process and better-informed legislation.
- 3. Review and Amend Overreaching Provisions:** Specific provisions that infringe on civil liberties and rights, such as the arbitrary revocation of licenses and unwarranted search powers, should be critically reviewed and amended to ensure they are just, proportionate, and in line with democratic principles.

In conclusion, while the intentions behind the Queensland Community Safety Bill 2024 are understood to be in the interest of public safety, the approach as proposed is misdirected and infringes upon the rights and liberties of law-abiding Queenslanders. I strongly urge the Queensland Parliament to reconsider the proposed measures, focusing instead on targeted strategies that effectively address criminal activity without eroding the rights of its citizens.

Sincerely,
Daniel Lim Bromilow