

Queensland Community Safety Bill 2024

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This submission refers to the new proposed Queensland Community Safety Bill 2024. There is an area of this bill that concerns me in regards to my ability to own a use a Registered legally owned and operated firearm.

I am a member of a Rifle Club operating on a Registered and Authorized Range. I have been so for a number of years now. I participate in target rifle shooting only. As a returned Service person who served in Vietnam, I find that the participation in this sport allows me to gain some community involvement and to be able to associate with other persons in an environment which is contusive to my wellbeing.

My experience with firearms is not only that of my experiences in Vietnam but I was a qualified Firearms instructor with the Victoria Police as a District Firearms Instructor and with the Queensland Police Service as an instructor at the Police Academy at Oxley in the Firearms and Operational Safety Training Unit (FOST) as a Queensland Police Sergeant. I was entrusted with the training of new recruits in the use of the Glock Pistol. As can be gathered from that my experience in training and safety is extensive.

I would also like to add that I do not in any way participate in the shooting of living things for obvious reasons. My sole aim in my use of firearms is to be able to participate in the sport of target rifle shooting at an approved rifle range with other persons of the same interest.

The area in the proposed bill that concerns me is Firearm Prohibition Orders under Division 2 Making firearm prohibition orders under Subdivision 1 Considerations for making firearm prohibition orders and under section 141E Matters to consider for making firearm prohibition orders—adults.

Under Section 2 of the Bill Sub Section d which I have copied and pasted below it reads that a person who is an associate of a person who has committed one of the Acts listed in the Bill to warrant a Prohibition order being taken out against them. Sub Section d of Section 2 adds that the order can be taken out against a person if the person is an associated of a recognised offender.

(d)whether the individual is an associate of a recognised offender;

Under this proposed section a Lawful firearms owner can have a prohibition order taken out against him for the actions of others over which he has no control. I would refer you to Sub Section 4 which I have copied and pasted here as a direct cop from the Bill.

(4) For this section, an individual is an associate of a recognised offender if the individual—

(a) has a romantic or familial relationship with the offender; or

(b) associates with the offender in a way that involves seeking out or accepting the offender's company, whether the association happens in person or in another way, including, for example, electronically.

The bold sections which are underlined have been done so by me for emphasis. So as an honest and reputable person and a person who has followed all of the requirements to own a firearm, I can

have a prohibition order taken out against me for the actions of another person as described in the Bill as an associate of a person who has committed any of the actions mentioned in Section 141E of the proposed Bill.

So, for arguments sake let's say that my brother whom I have not associated with for some 40 odd years is convicted of one of the offences listed in the proposed Bill. Even though I have not seen him for that period of time because of my familial relationship with him, he is part of my family and my brother so he falls in that category. I can have a firearms prohibition order taken out against me even though I have followed all the rules and have committed no offence whatsoever.

If this legislation was juxtapositioned to the Transport Operation Road Use Management Act then if one of my family members or someone with whom I had a romantic relationship with was convicted of a Drink Driving offence, or an equivalent category of offence as the proposed Bill I would be in a position of having my drivers licence cancelled. The supposition that I am responsible for the actions of a family member or other person with whom I have a romantic relationship is quite frankly ludicrous.

This piece of the proposed Bill is draconian in the extreme. How can people that have no control over what family members do be held accountable in law. This opens to door to all sorts of draconian measures to be imposed on people that have done nothing wrong in law and yet are subject to a prohibition order in regards to the lawful ownership of a firearm.

This closes my submission and I thank the Committee for the opportunity to comment.

Robert McLear

