

Queensland Community Safety Bill 2024

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QUEENSLAND COMMUNITY SAFETY BILL 2024

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my grave concerns regarding the Queensland Community Safety Bill 2024, particularly regarding its implications for firearms owners and the broader issues of civil liberties, notably censorship.

Firstly, the proposed doubling of the licence application disqualification period is deeply troubling. Extending the period from 5 to 10 years without grandfathering existing licensed holders undermines the principle of rehabilitation and unfairly punishes individuals who have demonstrated their reform.

Additionally, the inclusion of withdrawn or quashed Domestic Violence Orders (DVOs) as disqualifying factors for firearms licences is unjust.

This provision fails to account for cases where DVOs are unfairly weaponised by abusive partners, potentially victimising licensed gun owners who are victims of domestic abuse.

The provisions related to Firearms Prohibition Orders (FPOs) are overly broad and risk ensnaring law-abiding citizens. The criteria for granting FPOs, particularly the inclusion of associations with recognised offenders could unjustly target innocent individuals based solely on their relationships or online interactions.

Furthermore, the authority granted to police to order the removal of social media content is deeply concerning.

The vague language surrounding what constitutes "offensive" or "illegal" content could lead to arbitrary censorship and infringe upon freedom of expression.

The provisions allowing warrantless searches of individuals or premises related to FPO subjects are a blatant violation of privacy rights. Granting police unchecked authority to search vehicles, homes, or businesses without a warrant undermines the fundamental principles of due process and protection against unreasonable search and seizure.

While the intention of the bill may be to enhance community safety, the proposed measure disproportionately target law-abiding firearms owners and erode civil liberties. I urge you to reconsider these provisions and ensure that any legislation passed respects the rights and freedoms of all Queensland residents.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.