

## Queensland Community Safety Bill 2024

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**Submitter Comments:**

# Queensland Community Safety Bill 2024

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Dear Sirs

I have very serious concerns about the proposals in this Bill. In particular I object to the proposed further regulations on firearms and firearm owners.

- introduce a firearms prohibition order scheme in Queensland
- introduce a verification process for purchasing small arms ammunition
- reform the 'fit and proper person' test in the *Weapons Act 1990* by expanding the types of serious offending captured, introducing a new category of disqualified persons, and, in certain circumstances, extending the exclusionary period to 10 years

Essentially these things already exist

1/ If a person has a history of criminality he/ she is considered not a fit and proper person and is not eligible for a firearms license.

Further more , a person with a long serious criminal history can be prohibited by the courts from ever obtaining a license.

I am aware that there are already people with a lifetime ban on ever obtaining a firearm license.

2/ There is already a verification system for the purchase of ammunition. One has to show a valid firearms license to purchase ammunition.

3/ Expanding the Fit and proper person test is of great concern. The police already exercise this power quite rigorously. These decisions can be challenged in the courts and rightly so. The judiciary has a final say on the matter.

On the surface it appears to be an attempt to simply make it harder to obtain a license. At the moment our legal system recognises that people should not be held to account for misdemeanors that

occurred long in the past. These decisions are actionable in the courts.

Licensed firearm owners with registered guns are already one of the most regulated groups in society and have demonstrated great responsibility. There is no evidence that they pose an ongoing threat to public safety.

Much of the rest of the Bill appears to be a huge grab bag of thought bubbles , most of which can be dealt with under current legislation.

We don't need more legislation , what we need is proper enforcement of existing legislation.

There are two main issues in this area : 1/ The police are understaffed and over stretched , also somewhat disillusioned with the decisions of the courts when they do prosecute offenders. They also have too much administration to contend with. Weapons Licensing for example is an administrative duty , not an enforcement Task.

2/ The courts seem to have been hamstrung by lenient government

Legislation that makes incarceration and punishment as a last resort. We hear daily stories of young offenders committing very serious crimes like car jacking and home invasions , only to be let out on bail time after time. This needs to stop and it can be with the appropriate legislation directing the courts. The courts only interpret the law , they don't make it.

Good luck trying to censor the internet , it's a fools errand. The E safety commissioners directions have already been successfully challenged in the Courts by companies like X.

If young criminals post up their activities on line they are simply incriminating them selves , making prosecution easier , so why would you want to stop them ?

To summarize , this bill is completely misdirected . On the one hand it attacks one of the most proven responsible groups in society , Licensed firearm owners , who pose no threat to public safety.

On the other hand it does nothing to address the very serious issue of ongoing youth crime.

Yours faithfully

Chris Ray