

Queensland Community Safety Bill 2024

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Submitter Comments:

In the Explanatory Notes of the Queensland Community Safety Bill 2024, in particular Introducing a Firearms Prohibition Order scheme in Queensland, the Policy objectives and reasons for them mention 200,000 firearms in the illicit market, outlaw motorcycle gangs engaging in the trafficking of illicit firearms and increased rate of stolen firearms in the last 10 years, yet the explanatory notes of this part of the bill has done nothing to convince me that the introduction of an FPO will confront these particular crimes or those allegedly conducting them. The notes speak of specific regards to the rights and liberties of individuals, this bill does take away the rights of those individuals. This bill proposes a 'hybrid' FPO model that enables the commissioner to issue short term FPO's under section 141G in the Weapons Act. An individual subject to a Commissioner issued FPO may appeal the making of the order with an appellate court. Nowhere in the explanatory notes does it state that the individual would be immune to warrantless searches of the individual, their vehicle or residence upon lodgement of the appeal and until it is decided. These warrantless searches are stated to arguably have the greatest impact on an individual's rights and liberties arising from the new part 5A. In regards to Introducing a new verification process for purchasing small arms ammunition, there needs to be surety that the individual, law abiding firearms licence holders rights are protected. The Bill and amendment speaks of the cohort being persons conducting business in the sale of potential harmful explosives, and that the new section 43A(2)(b) specifies that a verification system is an electronic system, along with its future amendments to reflect changes in the types of electronic systems available continues to only apply to a restricted cohort of people, namely those in the business of the sale of potential harmful explosives, and not record the details of the licenced firearm holder. Law abiding firearm licence holders have already been subject to rigorous scrutiny in their application for a firearm licence and the Permit to Acquire process when purchasing or taking ownership of their firearms. The verification process should not be a tally of an individual's purchase and inventory of ammunition as it does interfere with an individual's rights and liberties, particularly the right to privacy of the law abiding firearm owner.