

## Queensland Community Safety Bill 2024

**Submission No:** 163  
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**Attachments:** No attachment

### Submitter Comments:

Committee Secretary. Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee. Parliament House. George Street. Brisbane Qld 4000. It has come to my attention only yesterday, Tuesday 15th May 2024, that the Queensland State Government, through The Queensland Community Safety Bill 2024, is attempting to rush through legislation which is clearly designed to reduce the number of firearms licences in Queensland and reduce civil liberties. The Queensland Community Safety Bill 2024 amends at least 12 different Acts, including the Weapons Act, the Explosives Act, the Criminal Code and the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act. Yet, despite the complexity and scope of this proposed Bill, the community consultation period is only 14 days. This timeframe is unacceptable for Queenslanders to give appropriate consideration, make an educated and informed comment and compile a satisfactory submission. Why the rush? During my initial quick peruse of the proposed Bill, I note the government has bestowed themselves the power to strip firearms licences from responsible people due to the actions of their family members, forcing lawful people to take down social media posts the authorities don't like, and expanding the situations where police can search people without a warrant. I do not consent to the Queensland Community Safety Bill 2024. Do we live in a democratic society, or a communist regime? Is free speech, opinion and civil liberties unlawful in Australia? As a lawful and responsible licenced weapon holder, of sterling character, exemplary shooting record and compliant with the Queensland Weapons Act 1990 for 20+ years, I find this to be abhorrent and a gross infringement of an individual's civil liberties. I have recently been subject to presumed accusations, defamation of my character and integrity, suspension of my weapons licences, multiple attempts to confiscate my registered weapons and trespass of my private property, at the hands of an overzealous Queensland Weapons Licencing and Queensland Police, for having and expressing an opinion. These allegations and presumptions were found unwarranted after many months of dispute, and my stolen personal belongings were eventually returned. This however, has been a harrowing event, and to this day myself and my family are subject to "random" weapons inspections, "lost" weapons renewal applications (twice) and unsatisfactory time frames for new licence applications and PTAs. I do not consent to further expanding the situations where police can search people without a warrant; or extending the power/s of Queensland Weapons Licencing or Queensland Police to revoke, suspend or confiscate weapons or weapons licences on hearsay or presumption without justification, evidence and/or proof of intent. Furthermore, what is a "fit and proper person"? This is such an ambiguous description. Weapons Act 1990 (Qld) Section 10B, states that a firearms licence may only be issued to an individual if they are a "fit and proper person". Similarly, a licence can be revoked if an individual ceases to be considered a fit and proper person. However, Weapons Act 1990 does not state what constitutes a person "fit and proper person"; how one goes about proving that one is a "fit and proper person"; or how an authorised officer unknown to the licensee can unequivocally determine that one is or is not a "fit and proper person", their character and/or their intent. Instead, the Act sets out a range of considerations that determine that one will not be considered a "fit and proper person" by: (a) Becoming the subject of a domestic violence order (other than a temporary order); (b) Any conviction or sentence for any offence relating to the misuse of drugs; the use or threatened use of violence; or the use, carriage, discharge or possession of a weapon. Also, in determining one's "fit and proper" status for the issue, renewal, suspension or revocation of a licence an Authorised Officer will consider: (a) the mental and physical fitness of the applicant/licensee; (b) whether a domestic violence order has been made, police protection notice issued or release conditions imposed against the applicant/licensee; (c) whether the

applicant/licensee has stated anything false or misleading on or in connection with an application or renewal of application;(ca) whether there is any criminal intelligence or other information to which the authorised officer has access that indicates:-i) the person is a risk to public safety; or ii) that authorising the person to possess a weapon would be contrary to the public interest; and(d)the public interest.A definitive set of specifications, with exception of the very ambiguous “(d) the public interest”. Therefore, one must conclude that if he/she is not subject to any the above-mentioned considerations, he/she is then indeed fit and proper to hold a firearm/s licence.Based on the “fit and proper person” definition, which is very broad and can be subject to personal opinion, again I do not consent to further expanding the power/s of an already overzealous Queensland Weapons Licencing or Queensland Police.With a State Election imminent, I must inform you that my vote, and that of 200,000+ lawful Queensland weapons licence holders who echo my thoughts, are dependent upon your response and an appropriate action, as otherwise will have a serious effect on my voting intentions in that ballot.It is my will that an extension be allocated to allow more time for community “consultation”, to give stakeholders and citizens sufficient time to give proper consideration to this Bill and prepare an informed submission.My will be done.Michelle Bailey.Queensland Elector.