



Carl Judge MP
State Member for Yeerongpilly

22 July 2014

Chair, Mr Ian Berry MP
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Chair,

Re Weapons (Digital 3D and Printed Firearms) Amendment Bill 2014

I thank the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee for member's consideration of the Weapons (Digital 3D and Printed Firearms) Amendment Bill 2014 (the Bill). I am pleased to provide the below responses to submissions on the Bill. I trust the information will further assist member's considerations of the proposed legislation.

Submission 001: Mr David Nielsen

It is duly noted that Mr Nielsen holds the view that "Queenslanders already have one of the most draconian Weapons Licensing regimes in the Western World". It is highlighted that he states being fundamentally opposed to any further evolution of such laws.

Mr Nielsen suggests that the fundamental premise of the proposed Bill, to legislate the manufacture, distribution, and ownership of firearms that are manufactured by digital fabrication, is in-itself redundant; as these aspects are already more than adequately covered by the existing *Weapons Licensing Act, 1990*. This is an incorrect interpretation of the Bill which proposes legislation that is not covered by existing laws (emphasis added).

Other content within Mr Nielsen's submission requires no further response in my view. However, I purposely draw the committee's attention to the contemporary information contained in the Queensland Library research brief, tabled when the Bill was introduced in the Legislative Assembly.

Submission 002: Shooters Union Queensland

The opening statement of the submission proposes that the purpose of the document (i.e. submission) is to provide information in relation to existing legislation which precludes the necessity of introducing new legislation.

Upon reading the submission it is respectfully confirmed that yet again there is a clear misinterpretation of the Bill and an apparent misunderstanding that existing legislation effectively addresses the nature of criminality targeted by the Bill.

Submission 003: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service (Qld) Ltd

The submission forthrightly states "we support the objectives of the Bill and do not see any issues with its operation".

Conclusion

I again thank the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee for member's consideration of the Bill and remind all members of the reasons for it as outlined in the explanatory notes. Based on the submissions, I emphasise that comprehending the definitions contained within the Bill is absolutely critical to understanding the provisions and purpose of the proposed legislation. Additionally, the Queensland Parliamentary research brief reveals a very real and increasingly significant risk of criminality targeted by the Bill. Finally, I stress to the committee that as members of parliament (i.e. law makers) we must be highly cognisant of technology advancements that may, and indeed can, be applied for criminal purposes. It is vital that our laws keep pace with technology to effectively protect the community in Queensland.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Carl Judge', with a stylized, flowing script.

Carl Judge MP
Member for Yeerongpilly