Speech by

Mr M. HORAN

MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH

Hansard 30 November 1999

GUN LAWS

Mr HORAN (Toowoomba South—NPA) (10.19 a.m.): When the new gun laws were introduced in Queensland, very strong indications were given to people that they would be able to have the number of guns they required under category A or category B. On page 1 the Government's formal document stated—

> "As long as you have the appropriate licence, there is no restriction to the number of firearms or amount of ammunition you can own."

At the moment, people who are applying for firearms under category A and category B are being severely questioned about or denied the additional firearms that they are seeking. We in the Opposition are receiving reports from all over the State about this. This is particularly concerning for those who are seeking category A firearms, because under the legislation there is no need to state a particular need for a firearm as long as the applicant has the licence. With respect to categories B, C and others, there is a need for people to state their need for any additional firearms they require. It has always been the spirit of the legislation that people should be able to have any number of category A or category B firearms that they require and wish to obtain under the permit system.

I call on the Beattie Labor Government to tell this Parliament in a statement whether or not it has provided any political direction to the Weapons Licensing Branch and whether or not it will stand by the legislation so that decent, law-abiding people who have licences to own firearms, and who under the legislation have every right to obtain additional firearms under categories A and B, can do so without being harassed and made to feel like criminals when they are questioned about or denied firearms additional firearms.

We want to know what political direction has been given. This side of the House stands by the legislation. We guarantee that the legislation will ensure that people can obtain the firearms that they need. We demand to know what direction has been given.

Time expired.

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