



Speech by

**CHRIS FOLEY**

**Member for MARYBOROUGH**

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Hansard 28 May 2003

**WEAPONS [HANDGUNS AND TRAFFICKING] AMENDMENT BILL**

**Mr CHRIS FOLEY** (Maryborough—Ind) (3.07 a.m.): I have a constituent named Linda Blowers who is a champion sporting shooter who competes for Australia on the world stage through the International Practical Pistol Confederation, or IPSC. She has a number of concerns regarding this bill. The major areas of concern are proposed sections 132(a), 132(d) and 177. Proposed section 132(a) prohibits the possession of a weapon with a calibre greater than .38. In standard division IPSC a minimum of .40 calibre is required to meet the requirements of international competition. Proposed section 132(d) prohibits the possession of a weapon with a magazine that has a maximum capacity of more than 10 rounds. This will seriously compromise the ability of all IPSC shooters to be competitive in international competition where standard magazine capacity is 20 rounds. Proposed section 177 allows the possession of prohibited weapons during the amnesty period but prohibits their use during the amnesty. If the prohibitions in section 132 form part of the legislation when passed, then this provision in section 177 is particularly unfair. It has not been possible to arrange replacement equipment to conform with the proposed legislation as there has been much uncertainty as to whether exemptions for IPSC competitors would be granted. It will take at least three—

**Mr MULHERIN:** I rise to a point of order. I thought this was a second reading debate where members could not speak to the clauses. The honourable member for Maryborough is speaking to every clause in the bill.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Male): Order! There is no point of order.

The concern is that this person competes for Australia on the international stage and she cannot use any of the equipment that she has to train with for a period of three months. This will seriously compromise training for the US Nationals in which she intends to compete in September of this year and also the Oceania Games in November. If the prohibitions are to apply, then she believes that it is fair and equitable that she be permitted to possess and use the prohibited equipment during the amnesty period so as to have the opportunity to acquire replacement equipment and train. My concerns with this bill are mainly along the lines of their impacts on sporting shooters and also historical collectors.