




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MOUNT ISA

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ADJOURNMENT

Firearms, Licensing

 **Mr KATTER** (Mount Isa—KAP) (11.38 pm): I rise tonight to defend the interests of firearm owners in Queensland. This year there was a national review of firearms. It was a great opportunity for Queensland to engage in a process where the licensing regime was readdressed and where the effort and cost that is put on licensed firearm owners like myself and the member for Dalrymple—the responsible people—is redirected towards unlicensed firearm owners—the illegal ones—who we want to attack. There is common ground for us here. We can save costs and start focusing on the criminal activity of the people on the fringes. There was an opportunity for that, but the process was hijacked based on a YouTube clip on the Adler shotgun. There was no data, no gun death, no incident, no rigorous scientific process. It was just an opportunistic political drive to take something out of one category and put it into category D. There are other firearms in that same category that everyone knows have every right to be there as well. This is just an opportunistic political step to put it in there.

The bad news is that there has been no consultation in Queensland with the firearm industry. The government needs to consult with these people. They do not have to agree with them but they must consult with them. The national firearm review has now been handed down with recommendations. Industry must be consulted. There must be discussions with them before that review spits its recommendations out the other side. It must be informed by both sides. That is only fair. I think all voters in Queensland expect that and it has not been done. It is easy to ostracise and demonise this part of the community. We take great offence to that. There is so much misleading information around this. In Canada they have wound back the rigour around the licence part of the industry because they recognise it is a waste of effort and costs. It does not reduce gun deaths. Only when the unlicensed people on the fringes are attacked will gun deaths reduce.

This is an opportunistic political stunt to attack one gun. There are no big commercial opportunities for anyone. This is a political attack on a particular group of people. It is akin to the live-export ban, where something is demonised and thrown out into the political sphere and everyone is too scared to touch it. There is no rationale, science or data backing this up. It is time for Queensland to make a stand and say that this should be done in the interest of fairness, under scientific rigour, under data, under proper process and not without consultation.