




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR WARREGO

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ADJOURNMENT

Firearms, Licensing

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (1.20 am): Queensland primary producers take their role seriously and are proud to be world renowned for their clean, green image. Animal welfare is at the top of their priorities, from low-stress stock handling to, unfortunately, having to dispose of sick or injured stock from time to time. Everything is done with best practice as a priority. A number of my constituents have written to me to appeal for help to stop the attack on primary producers who hold category H weapons licenses. In summary, they advise that the state Labor government has simply decided to make it illegal to own a short-arm for primary production reasons. One can only decipher this as ploy to make the public feel safer by disarming humble farmers.

The minister's argument that a rifle is more humane than a pistol to dispose of sick or injured stock is out of touch with reality. The stock are generally well out in the paddocks, far away from the homestead. In many cases, carrying a rifle on a motorbike or horse is unsafe. When mustering stock daily through rough and timbered terrain, a rifle can catch on numerous snags and present challenges to the rider, not to mention that the constant shaking can render the rifle inaccurate and inoperable over time. Therefore, the choice is actually between a pistol and a pocket knife.

Primary producers do not choose a short-arm to behave like cowboys, as the minister stated. They require and use a pistol to administer a fast and efficient method of euthanasia. It is the right tool for the job. If police were asked to carry rifles instead of short-arms, they would find it impractical and unsafe. One letter from a constituent states—

When I go out on a motorbike I'm carrying a pair of fencing pliers, a pocket knife and my pistol.

I have had to dispose of sick calves and injured stock with a pocket knife before I acquired my category H licence. I can ASSURE the Minister, the pistol was and still is a FAR more humane way.

Primary producers' short-arms are for farm use only. They are either safely secured in gun safes or securely attached to the belt in a holster when in the paddock. The minister is trying to write his own legacy to say, 'I reduced Australia's gun numbers.' If you outlaw guns, then only the outlaws will have guns.

Humble farmers are being punished for being law-abiding citizens. It is hoped that, by providing a summary of these constituents' letters to the House, it can better understand the frustration and concern of this pointless attack on all primary producers and why this situation should be revoked.