




Speech By
Lachlan Millar

MEMBER FOR GREGORY

Record of Proceedings, 2 November 2016

WEAPONS REGULATION

Disallowance of Statutory Instrument

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (9.58 pm): I support the disallowance motion moved by the member for Everton. I have been sitting here and listening to the member for Ferny Grove's speech for the last 10 minutes. This has nothing to do with the Adler. This has nothing to do with Port Arthur. This is about the concerns of law-abiding firearms dealers that they will be forced to shut down following the death of a gun dealership licence holder. This is about red tape. It is about bureaucracy. This is what is so disappointing. I am not speaking from any notes or from a prepared speech—

Mr Butcher interjected.

Mr MILLAR: I take the interjection from the member for Gladstone. I plead with him to listen just once to this issue. I am sick to death of this side of politics, primary producers and farmers continually being criticised and bashed over their position on guns. I am absolutely sick to death of us being demonised. Where do those opposite get off demonising us, primary producers, farmers and graziers over guns? What thrill do they get out of that?

A government member: That's not true.

Mr MILLAR: If you listened to the member for Ferny Grove he talked about Adler and Port Arthur. It is not about that. It is about red tape. It is about listening to gun dealerships. It is about understanding an issue that they have. They need to be taken notice of.

Law-abiding firearms dealers are concerned that stores will be forced to be shut down following the death of a gun dealership licence holder. What does that have to do with Port Arthur and Adler—not a damn thing? The law which recently took effect means that if a dealership gun licence nominee dies the store would be deemed to be trading illegally. That is what we are dealing with here.

We are dealing with small businesses that have a right to be small businesses. Many of these small businesses, including those in my area such as Wallaby Jacks in Emerald, Glen Rural Traders in Longreach and Halls Fire Arms in Rocky, are important. They contribute to the economy. They pay their taxes. They are small businesses. We are looking at a bureaucracy and a regulation that needs to be fixed. That is what the member for Everton is trying to fix.

I am calling on the government to be prepared to consult with these firearms dealers and to do this properly. That is what we are asking for. This has nothing to do with what the member for Ferny Grove was talking about. It frustrates those of us in Western Queensland and in regional areas that when we talk about these issues those opposite bring in other issues that have nothing to do with it. It is about small business being able to operate successfully. That is what this is about. If the person who owns the store is the licensee, that person dies, they lose the licence and that shop or dealership is considered to be trading illegally, what do you think happens there?

Mr Butcher interjected.

Mr MILLAR: Why would you want to shut a business down in regional Queensland when you are the member for Gladstone? Why would you want to shut a business down, especially in Gladstone? Why would you want to shut a business down? Please tell me why you want to shut businesses down.

They contribute to the economy. They pay people's wages. Those people who get paid wages from those small businesses pay mortgages. They contribute to the economy. This is what we are talking about. We need to make sure that these businesses will not be trading illegally. We do not want these businesses trading illegally. I call on those members opposite to support this disallowance motion and fix up this issue.

A government member interjected.

Mr MILLAR: That just shows that you are not looking at this issue from a red tape point of view. Law-abiding firearms dealers are concerned stores will be forced to shut down following the death of a gun dealership licence holder.

Mr Byrne interjected.

Mr MILLAR: It has nothing to do with that. I take the interjection from the police minister, but it has nothing to do with that. It is about supporting small businesses in regional areas. I know that that is a new concept for those opposite, but we have to support everybody in regional areas.

I support the shadow police minister's disallowance motion. It is important that we make sure that these businesses—these law-abiding firearms dealers—are not forced to shut down because the government failed to consult with them and failed to understand the issue. All they want to do is continue trading. They are law-abiding people.

The issue of firearms continues to be an issue in my seat of Gregory. Not only are we dealing with this, but we are also dealing with the reclassification of H class licences—licences for concealable weapons. We use those H class licences for practical reasons.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr MILLAR: The member for Logan shows that he has no understanding whatsoever of this issue, but he is prepared to interject and not listen. This is a serious issue. This is not about what the member for Ferny Grove was talking about.

This is about law-abiding firearms dealers who are concerned that they will be forced to shut down following the death of a gun dealership licence holder. The law which recently took effect means that if a gun dealership licence nominee died the store would be deemed to be trading illegally. That is what we are talking about. It will force the police to immediately seize all guns and the dealership to close its doors for months until a new licence can be given to a nominee. That is what we are talking about.

Mr Byrne: Who's told you that?

Mr MILLAR: That is what we are talking about. It is about sitting down with these law-abiding firearms dealers, talking to them about this issue and finding a way through so that the licensee is the business and the business can continue to trade. These businesses employ people. Wallaby Jacks, Halls Fire Arms and Glen Rural Traders do not just sell firearms. Wallaby Jacks is a great store in Emerald. It is a success story. They sell camping gear and swags. They are a successful business. A part of their business is that they are law-abiding firearms dealers.

I believe a simple way to fix this is to sit down with them and have a chat. We need to try to support small businesses in regional areas. It is important. This is an issue that can be easily fixed. I call on the Minister for Police and the Palaszczuk government to sit down with these people and fix this problem. It is not a technical issue. It is not a hard issue to fix.

If the gun dealership licence holder dies the gun dealership licence should be easily transferred to the business so that the business can continue to operate. It is about supporting small business in rural and regional Queensland. It is not a hard thing to do. I call on those opposite to support the disallowance motion moved by the member for Everton.