




Speech By
Robbie Katter

MEMBER FOR MOUNT ISA

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

National Firearms Agreement

 **Mr KATTER** (Mount Isa—KAP) (2.42 pm): I rise in the House to support licensed firearm owners in Queensland and to ask why this government is setting down a pathway to punish them. The National Firearms Agreement is staring us down the barrel. It is the first time it has been reviewed in many years—a huge undertaking for a state to do. There has been very little input from industry and representatives to this point to give a response. We are staring down the barrel of some very significant changes, some of which are not evidence based or data based but are easy to pick on. It is easy to send out the message in Queensland for everyone to pick on them. All we want is some fair representation. If it is based on data and evidence, fine; we will take the umpire's decision. However, we do not want an emotive response. Minister Keenan in Canberra said that there was going to be an emotive reaction to these things and they plucked out the incident in Martin Place and associated that with it. That would have otherwise been a really constructive exercise between all levels of government to strengthen security around licensed firearm ownership and helping police do their job. The whole thing got sidetracked.

Justice Minister Keenan is now rallying the troops to persecute all firearm owners around Queensland to try and reclassify lever action shotguns based on a YouTube video that was seen on TV—not evidence based—and the federal government wants Queensland to dance to its tune. It should not happen. It is a travesty and it is unfair on people. Fair enough if it is evidence based and there is data to support it, but if there is not it should not be supported. There is no reason to say that it will not be supported now because we know that it is high on its agenda and there has been no information coming back.

At this point in principle we are bound to the agreement and it is very possible that that is part of the agreement. If that goes through, again it is an emotive response. It is irresponsible and immature for government to respond to any issue like that. I know that there are many people who get scared and demonise anything to do with firearms, and that is fair enough if you do not understand it. However, do not demonise it and do things as an emotive response. We need to be responsible and base things on evidence and data. That is how good government decisions should be made. We are happy to take the umpire's call if that is made, but if not we should not make emotive decisions, and that is what is happening at the moment. It is the same thing with category H firearms. That has not come into the House for debate. There is no opportunity to give input beforehand, but no primary producer is able to get category H firearms. It is unfair for the government to keep persecuting this one industry. It is discriminatory and unfair.

(Time expired)