




Speech By
Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

Record of Proceedings, 2 November 2016

WEAPONS REGULATION

Disallowance of Statutory Instrument

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (7.40 pm): I move—

That part 3 section 16 of the Weapons Regulation 2016, subordinate legislation No. 131 of 2016, tabled in the House on 16 August 2016 be disallowed.

Tonight we are speaking about a regulation that should have been changed in a once-in-10-year opportunity with a review of the Weapons Regulation. The reason that we are here tonight is because we have a police minister who has refused to consult properly with the law-abiding gun owners and dealerships in this state. We have seen a record of this in a number of engagements that the minister has had with the sector. He has been in a lot of ways forced to deal with the sector and they have found it incredibly frustrating. The minister has refused to deal in any meaningful way whatsoever with these people who do the right thing, who are serious about making sure that our gun regulations are workable and that guns only appear in the hands of those people who are law-abiding.

We know the record of the minister in this area. When we have previously spoken in this House about category H gun licensing for those law-abiding primary producers who for decades have used handguns responsibly, it has been recognised in the Queensland parliament that this was a proper use of handguns by primary producers. The minister has failed to recognise the workplace health and safety issues associated with the practical aspects for primary producers of using these handguns.

Mr Byrne interjected.

Mr MANDER: I will take that interjection from the police minister because what I am endeavouring to argue is that this minister has had no serious engagement whatsoever with law-abiding firearms owners and dealerships. He has made comments about our primary producers and called them lone cowboys. We know the minister's record in this area. He had no problems discharging a firearm in a residential property in a suburb of Rockhampton.

Mr Rickuss interjected.

Mr MANDER: I will take that interjection from the member for Lockyer. Rats, was it?

Mr Rickuss: The size of Alsations!

Mr MANDER: Rats the size of Alsations!

Mr Cripps: Allegedly.

Mr MANDER: Allegedly. We are talking about this because we have a minister who has no respect for law-abiding gun owners, people who have proven over the years that they are responsible with firearms, that they have used them in their usual workplace and used them very responsibly. Now we have a once-in-10-year opportunity to disallow a regulation that is unworkable. The regulation states

that if a gun dealership licensee dies that licence is immediately suspended. There are an incredible number of impracticalities that are associated with that. Rather than it being attached to a dealership or a business, by being attached to a licensee, an individual, there is a major disruption that takes place to business if the person who has that licence passes away. The gun dealers have been wanting to tell the minister this but they have not been given any meaningful way of doing that. The result of that is that this once-in-10-year opportunity that the minister has with regard to reviewing these regulations has been missed.

There are some really serious potential consequences of this regulation. Some of these gun dealerships are major multimillion dollar businesses. Some of them have contracts with the defence department and store Defence weapons. Imagine the disruption this might cause to national security if the licensee died. With the week or two of red tape and the bureaucracy associated with that we can only imagine the disruption that that would cause. Jobs would be lost for that period of time. There is no doubt that this opportunity has been missed and it has simply been missed because this minister refuses to consult with the industry.

Various speakers from this side of the House, particularly our regional members, have been approached by owners of dealerships in their areas. Right across-the-board this issue has been of great concern. They are dismayed that this opportunity has been missed. We feel that the only responsible thing to do is to bring this disallowance motion to the House tonight. My appeal to the minister is to have serious engagement with the people who live and breathe these regulations on a daily basis, the people whose livelihood is associated with the workability of these regulations. It seems to me it is common sense to make sure that we are engaging with those people who live and breathe this every day, who are experts in this area, who are concerned that law-abiding gun owners and dealerships should not be affected because the licence is attached to a particular person. We argue that for all those reasons this aspect of the regulation should be disallowed.