




Speech By
Tony Perrett

MEMBER FOR GYMPIE

Record of Proceedings, 2 November 2016

WEAPONS REGULATION

Disallowance of Statutory Instrument

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (8.32 pm): I rise to make a short contribution in support of the disallowance motion that was moved by the member for Everton and shadow police minister. I am very much looking forward to the contribution by the minister later in this debate. While I want to keep my comments brief, I want to hear the sureties that the minister will give the House and the gun dealers across Queensland that they are protected by this particular regulation.

I have had many representations, particularly from gun dealers and licensed gun owners, with regard to this particular matter. They do have concerns and I think they are legitimate concerns. If the minister had had the will through this process to consult more broadly and meet with some of these gun dealers, he could have avoided some of the problems that have been represented to me. I am certainly a law-abiding gun owner. I have a weapons licence. I am a primary producer and we use them on a regular basis. The scaremongering, the demonising and the views that have been put forward tonight about gun owners simply do not represent the facts about the many, many gun owners we have not only in the Gympie electorate but particularly across Queensland.

I want to get to the point of consultation and the view that was put forward to me as I mentioned earlier with regard to gun dealers and having the licence directly with the dealer and not with the individual. Perhaps, Minister, it may have been a good opportunity to look at this. I do not believe it will provide for the proliferation of weapons across this state. It is about an administrative process that I believe could have been sorted through with proper consultation and some extra work from the minister. The views that have been put forward do create uncertainty within the business.

Mr Byrne: It is a statutory review.

Mr PERRETT: I understand that, Minister. It is a statutory review and perhaps consultation—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Furner): Order! Member for Gympie, I will get you to direct your comments through the chair.

Mr PERRETT: Thank you for your guidance, Mr Deputy Speaker. Perhaps if that process had been a little clearer and the consultation a little broader, then these issues would not have been raised directly with many members from this side of the House. The process that should have been put in place was a process where that individual contact and representation was taken seriously. That certainly does not appear to be the case. As I indicated, I am looking forward to what the minister has to say to give surety to these dealers that there will be continuity of business in the unfortunate situation where the licensee does pass on. The minister seems confident, and we will listen to what he has to say. I am prepared to stand in this House and put forward those views. If the minister can provide that surety, then the broader gun dealers across this state will be a little more comforted, but I am not certain that will be the case.

Weapons are a very important part of rural and regional Queensland. Obviously I represent a regional seat, and they are very important for primary producers. They are also very important to sporting shooters within our region. While members opposite have raised concerns about the use of weapons in Queensland, from my experience the clear majority of weapons owners and licensees across this state abide by the laws that are in place. I indicated earlier that I was going to keep my comments brief, and I will certainly do that. I look forward to what the minister has to say with respect to this. In the absence of anything further in what the minister says, I support the disallowance motion that has been put forward by the shadow minister.