



Speech By  
**Robbie Katter**

**MEMBER FOR MOUNT ISA**

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Record of Proceedings, 7 September 2017

**MOTION: CATEGORY H FIREARMS**

 **Mr KATTER** (Mount Isa—KAP) (6.07 pm): I move—

That this House supports primary producers' rights to own category H firearms by providing as-of-right access to category H firearms for primary producers.

This Labor government have taken it upon themselves to attack the rights of primary producers to own these firearms, and it has manifested itself with the category H weapons. This story started for me when some primary producers contacted my office to say that they had been using these firearms for years—because they are a handy tool that can be used around the paddock—but, suddenly, their applications for a category H firearm were being knocked back. The important thing to recognise in this debate is that these people are not getting knocked back for a licence; they are getting knocked back for a category of firearm within the licence. They have already gone through the checks and balances of whether there is any criminal history and the other checks that are there, but this is getting the category H licence to acquire a category H firearm. That difference is very important.

If a farmer is on a bike or a horse in remote areas, this is a practical tool that can be used in those circumstances. It is the same if they are walking in between cattle yards and going through the rails. The alternative is to carry a rifle and this is very awkward and completely impractical. That is the whole point of people using pistols. In other ordinary circumstances, rifles are very practical tools; they would not exist on stations if they were not of some use.

One gentleman who is a fine old fellow and cattle producer in the area lives about three hours from Mount Isa where the nearest pistol club is. He was walking back to his vehicle late one afternoon and there was a pack of wild dogs near him. He thought that if the dogs got between him and his car he would have been in big trouble because there were no trees around. He decided to go down to the police station and get his category H licence renewed but he could not get it. This is an older fellow with no history of anything. He can join a pistol club and drive three hours six times a year to that pistol club. He can still own that pistol, keep it on his station and drive across his station with it in his car to Mount Isa—and that is considered safe—but he cannot own it and take it out in this very remote area where it is of no harm to anyone while checking his bores or doing cattle work.

A lot of people who engage in this debate do not know what they are talking about. They think if they get more guns out of the market that is better for everyone, but this does not achieve that. I can still join a pistol club and do it, but it makes it impractical for me because I cannot use it on the farm. This is not about taking guns out of the market; all it does is prevent me from using it on the farm where it is safe. I can still use it in town where there are people. There is an anomaly and a silly decision has been made. Nothing has come before the parliament. I table this Queensland police document.

*Tabled paper:* Extract from Queensland Police Service web page titled 'Concealable Firearms Licence' [[1629](#)].

It states—

A Concealable Firearms Licence ...

This licence may only be issued for the following genuine reasons:

- a) Sports or Target Shooting
- b) Primary Production; or
- c) other occupational reasons.

It says it here, but no-one can get them, although the odd few are slipping through. Obviously there is a problem when I can drive to town and use it there, but I cannot use it out of town, four or five hours away, out in the bush where I actually need to use it. That is where it would be really handy to be able to use it. That is where I cannot use it. That is an anomaly. This decision has been made without the right information. The previous minister has made some adverse comments in this House towards our primary producers that they want to be lone cowboys. That is a real insult to these people who just want to go out and do their job because it is a safety issue. If they are out on the station by themselves, their wife is away, they are driving out the back to check the bores and it is not practical to carry a rifle, who is there to help them? They have to help themselves. It is a genuine tool for them. It does not make sense for them to not have access. We need to change this. It behoves this House to support these people and let them have access to these tools of their business.