




Speech By  
**Shane Knuth**

**MEMBER FOR DALRYMPLE**

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Record of Proceedings, 7 September 2017

**MOTION: CATEGORY H FIREARMS**

 **Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—KAP) (6.17 pm): I rise to support the KAP motion that this House supports the rights of primary producers to own category H firearms by providing as-of-right access to category H weapons for primary producers. I believe this is a good motion. It is very much supported and has been pushed by landowners over a number of years and particularly by AgForce. This has been a long time coming. Primary producers are the ones who put the food on the table. When we eat in restaurants or when we have a feed, it is due to them getting out amongst the flies, the crows, the heat and the dust to put that food on the table.

There is also the tyranny of distance. Every property is different. The properties in the Gulf of Carpentaria are different to the small properties around residential areas. Likewise, in places like Charters Towers there was talk that with 17,000 acres of land people could just make a living. The primary producers need the tools to carry out the job they do. When those primary producers see a heifer that has been mauled by wild dogs they need to finish it off, otherwise that heifer will go through a long period of suffering.

You have to understand that a primary producer can go to a pistol club and use a handgun. They have to attend that pistol club six times a year, and if they do not attend that pistol club they have to hand the pistol in. Primary producers have been complaining to us that, even though they have been trying to get a category H licence or renew one, they are continually being denied. Even though they are a primary producer and they have access to category B firearms, they are denied access to a handgun. When you look at the Gulf of Carpentaria, property owners sometimes have to travel over 1,400 kilometres on dirt roads through creeks and gullies—and blowouts—to attend a pistol shoot so they can keep their licence. In those areas you are not talking about travelling just a few kilometres. If you want to get from one end of your property to the other it could be a 1½ to two-hour ride on a horse, four-wheeler or a motorbike. If you are carrying a rifle it can become very heavy, particularly when you are mustering, but if you have access to a pistol it is very, very simple. It is one of the tools that is needed to do the job. I strongly support this motion.

There are continual problems with regard to the renewal of category H licences. Time and time again we have heard from primary producers that they cannot renew a category H licence and weapons licensing continually knocks them back. This is an issue that needs to be addressed, and this motion will address the issue. I believe that shooting is a great Australian pastime and something that culturally we have been brought up with, particularly in rural and regional Queensland where many landowners and property owners are trying to get access to a category H licence. I fully support the right to bear arms. When we have an issue with firearms or illegal firearms, the first thing governments do is attack law-abiding firearm owners. Governments need to support law-abiding firearm owners, not target them. This is a good motion. We want to ensure that primary producers do not have to travel 1,500 kilometres—which many do—to attend a pistol shoot just so they can keep a handgun when they need it, because it is a tool they need to carry to do their job. I commend the motion to the House.