




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR DALRYMPLE

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MOTION: DISALLOWANCE OF STATUTORY INSTRUMENT

 **Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—KAP) (8.30 pm): I fully support the disallowance motion moved by the member for Mount Isa. Madam Deputy Speaker, the Labor Party has tabled a regulation calling for tighter gun control in this House. The KAP has moved a disallowance motion to remove the regulation for tighter gun control, so the disallowance motion that we have moved in this House keeps the status quo. By moving this disallowance motion we do not add to or weaken gun control laws. Everything stays the same. The reason why everything stays the same is that John Howard introduced the toughest gun control laws in the world, so members cannot say that the disallowance motion that we have moved is badly worded or a stunt. We have basically moved this disallowance motion to maintain the status quo. Everyone, including the media and the Labor Party, has said that John Howard introduced some of the toughest gun control laws in the world, so we do not need this regulation.

We are keeping the status quo but, because we are a tight parliament, a hung parliament, we need the support of the opposition and the crossbenchers and we are hoping to receive the support of the Labor Party. Their support is vital, because if governments constantly change gun laws year in, year out we will lose the foundations that we have fought for right from the beginning. It is important that we block this motion, and I hope that we have the support of the opposition and the crossbenchers. This ABC article states—

Adler shotgun: Queensland LNP threatens to block PM's Adler restriction

Queensland's Opposition Leader says he does not take "riding instructions from Canberra" and could block the Prime Minister's proposed restrictions on the Adler shotgun.

...

LNP leader Tim Nicholls has ruled out blocking the restrictions, and says there has not been enough consultation with gun owners.

...

"We already have strong laws in Queensland that protect people and make sure only the right people can get those sorts of weapons."

These are not the Prime Minister's tougher gun control laws: these are the member for South Brisbane's tougher gun controls. The KAP has moved the disallowance motion to maintain the status quo. I will read you another article from the *Gympie Times* which says—

'In danger and in the dark': Perrett on Adler gun laws

The LNP is under extreme political pressure to back Gympie MP—

it is good that he is going to support us—

Tony Perrett in his defence of the controversial Adler lever action shotgun.

The Government reportedly plans to introduce new legislation to reclassify the seven-shot firearm, but will need the support of the Opposition or at least three out of five cross-benchers to pass the changes.

Katter's Australian Party MPs, Robbie Katter and Shane Knuth say they will block the laws and need only one more cross-bench vote, or Opposition support, to succeed.

That is all we need. We need one more crossbench vote and the opposition to succeed and we will block this regulation. What will happen if we block it? It will keep the status quo of the toughest gun laws in the world. That is all it does, so that is all you are supporting. The article continues—

Although the LNP is still attempting to gauge public opinion before formulating its policy, Mr Perrett has already said the state government has no facts on which to base a reasonable decision.

...

"I've seen no evidence by any authority which supports the reclassification of the Adler.

"As a weapons licence holder, gun owner and primary producer, I support practical, evidence based gun classification.

"I support the rights of law abiding gun owners and not those who use emotional grandstanding to demonise guns and their users," Mr Perrett told The Gympie Times.

We believe that we have Mr Perrett on our side. He does not believe in emotional grandstanding because there was a shooting in America. We do not believe that because there was a shooting over there we have to change things very quickly, because there is no evidence that shows this with regard to the Adler. There is no evidence to justify the restriction. There have been no incidents to justify the banning or restriction of the Adler. There is no evidence at all to support restrictions being placed on the Adler. This ABC article is quite good and we like it. It states—

Adler shotgun: Nationals senator Bridget McKenzie says heavy restrictions are irrational

Nationals senator Bridget McKenzie has been scathing of the heavy restrictions on the Adler shotgun, saying they are not based on evidence.

She is right: there is no evidence, and you will back us, won't you, because you have been spruiking about it? The LNP—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! Member for Dalrymple, please resume your seat for one moment. This is a passionate debate, but there is far too much conversation going on around the chamber and far too many ferocious interjections. Please allow the member to speak. I call the member for Dalrymple.

Mr KNUTH: I would like to remind everyone that this has been put into the same category as the AK45, so this is going a bit overboard. All of the reports, newspapers and everything that we have read suggest that the LNP is for law-abiding firearm owners and they are there to back them. 'Day in, day out we're with you.' The article goes on to quote Nationals senator Bridget McKenzie, a great woman—

"There's no evidence to suggest that this is a rational decision based in evidence, in common sense," she said.

"Look, I think it is incredibly disappointing that today we saw Labor and Liberal premiers turn their back on evidence based policy making."

This is not an evidence based policy decision. Moving this disallowance motion is not a stunt; it is removing Labor's regulation for tighter gun control. What is disappointing is that, when there is a shooting, they always target the law-abiding firearm owner who has been through police checks.

An honourable member: Demonise them.

Mr KNUTH: They demonise them, and these are members of gun clubs and primary producers. Why don't they target the tens of thousands of illegal guns that are trafficked through this country every year? Why don't they check the 75 per cent of parcels that come through the post into this country unchecked? These are the big issues that we should be worried about. There is no evidence to support tougher gun controls in this state. We need the support of the opposition to block this, because we are here to ensure that Queenslanders get a fair go and they are not disadvantaged by governments that bring in emotive policies, particularly close to election time. I fully support the disallowance motion moved by the KAP.