



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Ryan**


**MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD**

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Record of Proceedings, 6 February 2020

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Gel Blasters, Police Service Recommendations**

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (9.56 am): Community safety is of paramount importance to our government, the Palaszczuk government. One of the important considerations when supporting community safety is to identify emerging trends or issues of concern. Last year we witnessed a number of incidents involving the misuse of gel blasters. This concerned many people in the community, so I asked the commissioner to look into what steps could be taken to enhance community safety. The government has received that advice. The police recommend that further regulations be put in place to enhance community safety regarding the possession of replicas and gel blasters that look like real weapons.

Firstly, it is important to reinforce that anyone who transports a replica firearm or a gel blaster that looks like the real thing in public should carry that item in a suitable bag or case away from public view. Secondly, police recommend that the owners of gel blasters that look like the real thing and replica firearms should keep them secured when stored at home. Finally, police have suggested that owners of gel blasters and replicas should have a reasonable excuse for their possession. A reasonable excuse would be, for example, that the owner of the gel blaster is a member of a gel blaster club and owns it for taking part in club activities.

Police are not proposing a ban on gel blasters. The vast majority of gel blaster owners behave responsibly, but police have advised that action does need to be taken to address incidents where gel blasters have been misused by a reckless minority. What is being suggested is a sensible regulatory framework that will support a greater level of community safety. We are a government that consults and listens to community concerns. What we want now is for members of the community to provide us with their feedback on the suggestions police have put forward in relation to gel blasters and replicas. I encourage all Queenslanders to have their say on the Queensland government's Get Involved website, which will be live by early next week.