




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR SOUTHPORT

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CORRECTIVE SERVICES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (12.56 pm): I rise to speak on the Corrective Services and Other Legislation Amendment Bill before the House. One could be forgiven for believing that this should be called the potpourri bill because the explanatory notes state that we are dealing with matters that affect Corrective Services, there are some amendments proposed to the Weapons Act and there is a small paragraph about changes to the Racing Integrity Act, and then in the last day or so we have been advised of further amendments to other acts, like the Summary Offences Act, the Work Health and Safety Act and, as we just heard from the Minister for Health, the Hospital and Health Boards Act.

What we have on the other side of the House is a government that operates under chaos. Instead of bringing these various issues before the House in a sensible and structured manner—perhaps actually having amendments to the Weapons Act dealt with as a completely separate piece of legislation—the government keeps putting all these things on the back of other bills. What we have had is two years of guillotined debate and having to rush things through to accommodate family-friendly hours. Now we find just a few months out from the election that all these last-minute changes are being rammed through. I note that there is a fairly long speaking list today, with members from both sides of the House, so there may not be an opportunity to speak to some of the amendments in detail.

Government members interjected.

Mr MOLHOEK: I am not taking interjections. The amendments in regard to work health and safety will provide unfettered access to the unions to enter job sites without any fear of recrimination or prosecution or having to abide by normal rules and decency. That is just being slipped through this afternoon in the House which is Labor's way of—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Weir): Member for Southport, I would ask you to come back to the long title of the bill. I think you are speaking to another bill.

Mr MOLHOEK: I will come back to the long title of the bill. I want to speak in support of the comments by the member for Kawana earlier today in respect of gel blasters. I understand that there are concerns about people carrying replica weapons, but as a father of four sons what I am concerned—

Mr Power interjected.

Mr MOLHOEK: I am not taking interjections, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Logan, I notice you are on the list so you will have your opportunity but at the moment it is the member for Southport who has the call.

Mr MOLHOEK: As a result of the concerns raised about gel blasters, I decided to visit a few of the stores in my electorate that sell them, and there are a number of them. I recently visited TacToys in Scarborough Street, Southport and I caught up with one of the owners, Corey. He was quite happy to demonstrate how these gel blasters work, and he actually suggested to me that I hold my hand out in

front of me and shot my hand. I was a little bit apprehensive about that, understandably, but I was pleasantly surprised that at that range, apart from a little bit of a sting, it really was not all that dangerous and it really was not the concern that many have sought to represent gel blasters as being.



Mr MOLHOEK (Southport—LNP) (4.02 pm), continuing: I rise to conclude the debate. Prior to the break, I was expressing concern and a little frustration at the fact that gel blasters are to be considered and treated the same as weapons under the Weapons Categories Regulation 1997. I draw to the House's attention that across Queensland the Gel Blaster Association supported an e-petition tabled in this House with some 11,000 signatures rejecting the suggestion that these toys—these gel blaster guns—be included under weapons category legislation and that there should be some exemption for them.

As I said earlier, as the father of four sons I always encouraged my boys to go out and to enjoy a bit of an adventure. Times have changed. When the boys were younger, we certainly enjoyed some great times out on the farm with grandad and a .22. I realise that in this day and age the regulations around that are a lot tighter and that even that opportunity for many young men and children is not available any longer.

We are depriving our children of fun, adventure and the opportunity just to take a bit of personal responsibility and to learn a few hard lessons of life. It can be dangerous—and I do understand that—but life is an adventure. As a young child, I remember a little bridge across a creek near my home. If you went there on the wrong day you might be unlucky enough to be shot with a slug gun in the leg or the thigh or to cop one in the back. It was not always pleasant, but it certainly helped you to grow up. On that note I will leave the debate to others in the House, but it is a very sad day when we as a state take yet another step to becoming even more of a nanny state than we are already.