




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR TRAEGER

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ADJOURNMENT

Weapons Licensing

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (7.18 pm): I wish to address the issue of weapons licensing, which continues to be a real problem for a government that keeps trying to impose its values and ideologies in a clumsy way. Uniformed police officers are doing their best to interpret previous decisions and guidelines. Some of those guidelines are absolute nonsense and are not evidence based. CSIRO is saying that long arms are best used on a horse or out in the paddocks. CSIRO seems to be this wonderful authority on what is the best firearm to use. I am talking now about pistols and category H firearms. We had a big problem with that. None of it is evidence based; it is all ideological. Presumably, everyone in the party room loves to have a laugh about how they can attack licensed firearm owners.

These decisions have very real consequences. There are people who need to use these things as tools. Truck drivers and helicopter pilots cannot get category H licences anymore. They are very important for them. When it floods, they have to destroy cattle. When a truck rolls over, they have to destroy cattle. If they take the decision to QCAT, Weapons Licensing wants to appeal. It wants to make a point out of trying to stop it. In most cases people do not even have a weapons licence, so outside of being a uniformed police officer they do not have any real-life experience with how this operates in practice. The focus should always be on community safety in terms of the evidence of where these things are needed. There has again been a shift in weapons licensing and the government will say, 'It's got nothing to do with us. It's all Weapons Licensing. It's their decisions.' Someone has to be responsible. I am sorry, but as the government those opposite are responsible. They need to take some responsibility for it.

It used to be that five years was the limit where a person applying had to reveal anything on their record; now it is indefinite. A traffic offence from 20 years ago is now relevant and is counting against people. For those people who were getting their firearms licence, it is now either held up or they are just not getting it. As I say, a 20-year-old traffic offence can now stop that process. The authorities already have all of that information, but they force people applying into admitting it and they can be forced into a corner. If they forget or just do not put that information in their application, then they are at fault and that can be cause for not getting a licence. Health reasons such as diabetes, cancer and sleep apnoea can all be reasons a person cannot get a licence, yet there is no evidence to back that up. These are all discriminatory. I would challenge anyone to name a more discriminated group than licensed firearm owners, and these laws are not doing anything.

After looking at the evidence, all of this effort the government is putting in is making people like me and farmers write more letters regarding the constraints around us. We are not the problem; it is the illegal gun owners that the government should be focusing on. That fact came through in that productivity report before the election—that is, while uniformed police officers are tied up with this the real problems are not being dealt with, and in that way the government is letting the safety of the community and the people of Queensland down.