

Question on Notice
No. 748
Asked on 24 June 2025

MR N DAMETTO ASKED MINISTER FOR POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES (HON D PURDIE)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the recent announcement by the Northern Territory Government to trial the legal purchase and carriage of pepper spray (oleoresin capsicum spray) for self-defence purposes—

Will the Minister advise whether the Queensland Government will trial a similar initiative to allow law-abiding Queenslanders to carry pepper spray as a non-lethal self-defence option?

ANSWER:

The Government is committed to supporting victims of crime and restoring community safety.

I am advised by the Queensland Police Service (QPS) that pepper spray, also commonly referred to as capsicum spray or oleoresin capsicum (OC spray), is not specifically named in Queensland legislation. However, it is classified as an anti-personnel gas and category R weapon in accordance with section 8(d) of the *Weapons Categories Regulation 1997* (Qld). Unlawful possession of capsicum spray is prohibited under section 50 of the *Weapons Act 1990* (Qld).

To possess capsicum spray, a valid Queensland weapons license for the possession of a category R weapon is required. Applicants are required to provide a genuine reason for the need to possess the particular weapon. Self defence is not considered a genuine reason under the framework.

While public safety remains a priority, introducing trial initiatives to permit general access to such items as pepper spray presents significant risks, including potential misuse and unintended harm.

The QPS continues to work closely with communities across Queensland to reduce crime and enhance safety through a range of operational strategies and prevention initiatives. At this time, there are no plans to amend current legislation to allow the general public to carry capsicum spray.