



Minister for Police and Community Safety

Ref No: 2024/3719 LM
Your Ref: A1249710

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8 April 2024

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
TableOffice@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to your correspondence of 8 March 2024 regarding Petition number 4019-24 received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 7 March 2024.

I acknowledge the concerns raised by the petitioners and I can assure them that the Queensland Government is committed to keeping our community safe and ensuring our laws are robust and remain appropriate to preserve peace and good order in all areas of Queensland.

The issue of legalising the use of weapons for additional purposes is complex and requires careful consideration of various factors, including legal implications, the risk and impact of increasing the availability of dangerous items within the community which can be misappropriated for the commission of violent offences, and the potential impact on law enforcement efforts and other strategies designed to enhance community safety.

The Queensland Government will always act on the advice of the Queensland Police Service (QPS) and that is why the use of items such as pepper spray, stun guns, tasers and batons is strictly regulated. The QPS advises that the use of these items carries an inherent risk and can have unintended consequences, including unlawfully or accidentally causing death or grievous bodily harm. In addition, there is a real risk that these items can be misappropriated by criminals and used for the commission of offences which cause harm to the community.

While the Government appreciates the petitioners' views on this issue, the Government accepts the QPS advice on this matter and accordingly the reclassification of these items is not supported at this time.

The QPS will continue to work diligently alongside communities to prevent crime and make Queensland a safer place. The QPS crime prevention policies, strategies and programs are guided by the national Crime Prevention Framework developed by the Australian Institute of Criminology and are available on the QPS website to help members of the community stay safe, address anti-social behaviours and reduce crime. For more information, please visit <https://www.police.qld.gov.au/safety-and-preventing-crime>.

The Queensland Government remains committed to working collaboratively with the community to address these concerns. The safety and wellbeing of all members of our community remains a priority of this Government.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke at the bottom.

The Honourable Meaghan Scanlon MP

Acting Minister for Police and Community Safety