



Hon Neil Roberts MP
Member for Nudgee



Minister for Police, Corrective Services
and Emergency Services

Ref: 11834 P68 TA

15 OCT 2010

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petition number 1514-10 lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Mr Paul Hoolihan MP, Member for Keppel, on 14 September 2010.

The petition seeks exemption of commercial infrared gaming units from the draft Weapons Bill 2010, on the claimed basis such units:

- do not use a laser;
- include at least one speaker;
- have at least one glass lens of at least 20mm in diameter which can be clearly seen at the front of the unit; and
- have a least one infrared sensor permanently attached.

Further, in response to the proposal in the draft Weapons Bill 2010 that the term "replica" be replaced by the term "imitation", the petition seeks "to exempt infrared gaming units from the definition of "imitation" which is too broad and also any definition of "replica".

The Bligh Government is committed to ensuring Queensland's weapons legislation remains relevant and appropriate to meet the safety concerns of the wider community and the needs of weapons industry stakeholders. In this regard, the Government announced a review of the *Weapons Act 1990* in 2007. At that time, the Government convened a Weapons Act Review Committee, comprising representatives of various weapons industry community associations, to examine the current Act.

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The Government developed a draft Bill incorporating the Committee's comments and reconvened the Committee earlier this year to consider the proposed amendments. Following further advice from the Committee, an exposure draft of the Weapons Bill was released for public consultation.

A significant number of submissions were made during the public consultation process, which was open from 4 August to 14 September 2010. The Government will now consider each of those submissions, prior to finalising the draft Bill.

With regard to the specific concerns raised by the petitioners, these issues have previously been raised by weapons industry stakeholders in meetings with the Weapons Review Secretariat. The petitioners may be assured the Government will give due consideration to their concerns, and those raised by the public submissions, when finalising this Bill.

Acting Inspector Cameron Hall, Queensland Police Service Legislation Development Unit is available on telephone 3015 7709 for any further assistance required.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Neil Roberts', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Neil Roberts MP
**Minister for Police, Corrective Services
and Emergency Services**