



Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and  
Minister for Corrective Services

Ref No: 13645 P5 LE

**03 JAN 2017**

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

1 William Street Brisbane  
PO Box 15195 City East  
Queensland 4002 Australia  
Telephone +61 7 3035 8300  
Facsimile +61 7 3220 6229  
Email [police@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:police@ministerial.qld.gov.au)  
ABN 65 959 415 158

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to E-Petition 2594-16 requesting Category D weapons be made available to sporting shooters.

Section 5 of the Weapons Categories Regulation 1997, in general terms, refers to Category D weapons as self-loading centre fire rifles designed or adapted for military purpose, self-loading non-military rifles, self-loading shotguns, pump action shotguns with more than a five round magazine, and a self-loading rim-fire rifle with a magazine capacity of over ten rounds.

As a result of the 1996 Port Arthur massacre, States and Territories determined it was no longer appropriate to allow Category C and D weapons (other than Category C Shotguns) for sporting purposes.

The resultant National Firearms Agreement (NFA) restricted the use of Category D weapons to specific occupational uses, including primary producers and feral animal controllers, and does not support their use in sporting competition.

The Queensland Government is a signatory to the NFA, which provides a requirement for all signatories to support the terms of the agreement to enhance public safety.

The *Weapons Act 1990* (Queensland) is a reflection of the NFA and restricts Category D weapons to persons engaged in occupations identified under the provisions of the agreement.

I intend to hold a firearms forum in early 2017, with a broader group of stakeholders, including firearms dealers and recreational and sporting shooters, along with representatives of the agricultural sector.

I will be inviting forum members to engage with their communities and to seek views and feedback from interested parties, and report back to the forum. With genuine feedback and consultation, the government is best-placed to achieve a balance that meets the needs of law-abiding firearms users and the safety interests of all Queenslanders.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

The Honourable Mark Ryan MP  
**Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and  
Minister for Corrective Services**