



The Hon Dr Anthony Lynham MP
Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy

Your ref A481096
Our refs CTS 20721/19

1 William Street Brisbane
PO Box 15216 City East
Queensland 4002 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3719 7360
Email nrm@ministerial.qld.gov.au
www.dnrme.qld.gov.au

18 SEP 2019

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
Cnr George and Alice Streets
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 22 August 2019, concerning petition No. 3114-19 received by the House on 20 August 2019, regarding environmentally friendly alternatives to fireworks.

In response to the petition, I wish to advise you of the information provided to me by the Chief Inspector of Explosives.

The petitioner has correctly identified that fireworks produce pollutants and safety risks are present during their use. Although the community has indicated overwhelming support for the continued practice of professionally conducted fireworks displays, as evidenced by the popularity of the annual Riverfire and Ekka events, there is a need to manage their environmental and safety effects.

The Queensland Government is committed to protecting the community from the adverse effects of explosives, which includes fireworks. The government has formulated protections from harm through the *Explosives Act 1999* (the Act) which regulates activities involving fireworks.

In order to ensure the safety of the community, Queenslanders are not permitted to possess or use fireworks unless licensed under the Act. An applicant for a license must undergo a stringent assessment of appropriateness and competence before being granted a licence and, since the Act came into force, the number of licensed operators in Queensland has reduced to 164. During the 2018-19 financial year, those licensed operators conducted 1745 displays throughout Queensland, which were free from serious safety incidents.

Due to the effects of regulation, including the creation of the "Queensland code of practice - Control of outdoor fireworks displays" in 2003, the number and type of fireworks displays has significantly reduced in the past 16 years. The level of environmental pollutants and resource usage has correspondingly decreased.

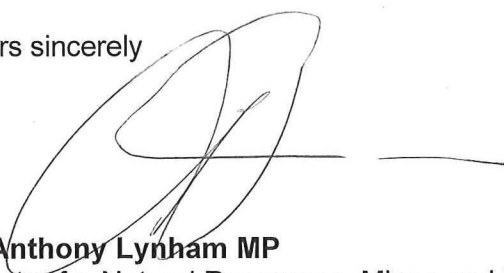
The Department of Natural Resources and Mines, through its Explosives Inspectorate, monitors the conduct of fireworks displays of all types and engages with the fireworks industry through

the Queensland Fireworks Industry Liaison Group, a government initiative that seeks to promote the safe and environmentally friendly use of fireworks.

The Chief Inspector of Explosives informs me that there is a continuous focus on reducing the adverse effects of fireworks including increased use of smaller and more constrained displays using so called "close proximity" fireworks. Advances in technology are driving innovative uses of fireworks that do not rely for effect on the large aerial explosions so common in the past. These innovations, which include the use of lighting effects such as those generated by lasers, are likely to increasingly satisfy the petitioners wish for alternative or more environmentally friendly fireworks.

I provide you with this response for tabling pursuant to Standing Order 125(3). Any enquiries regarding this response can be referred to Mr Simon Zanatta, Chief of Staff, on telephone 3719 7360.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'A' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr Anthony Lynham MP
Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy