



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

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Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
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George Street  
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Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to your letter dated 3 December 2020 about petition 3347-20.

In Queensland, persons have the legal right to defend themselves with reasonable force, provided the force is authorised, justified or excused by law.

The Queensland Police Service (QPS) has confirmed that Oleoresin Capsicum Spray is a Category R weapon under the *Weapons Act 1990* and *Weapons Categories Regulation 1997*.

I am advised that decisions around the reclassification of any weapon should be based first and foremost on community safety considerations.

As the Government will always put community safety first, the Government will always listen to the advice of the QPS when it comes to the regulation of weapons.

Based on QPS advice, the Government does not support the reclassification of Oleoresin Capsicum Spray at this time.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark Ryan', written over a light blue circular stamp.

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