

MIN 54071.04
S04/3412

Mr N Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
Corner Alice and George Streets
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to your letter of 20 August 2004 enclosing a copy of petition numbered 341-04 tabled in the Legislative Assembly raising objections to any legislation limiting or banning compound hunting bows or crossbows.

The weapons reforms implemented by the Queensland Government during 2003 do not ban the use of crossbows or compound bows and will not impact on the use of these weapons for sport or recreation purposes.

In July 2003, following a number of crossbow shooting incidents which occurred in Queensland and New South Wales, the Australasian Police Ministers Council agreed that all jurisdictions should prohibit or require licences for the possession and use of crossbows. In response, the Queensland Government implemented reforms requiring people to be licensed to possess and use a crossbow. This licensing requirement will commence on 1 November 2004. The Queensland Police Service proposes to implement a transitional period allowing current crossbow holders until 1 November 2005 to apply for the licence.

A crossbow does not include a compound bow. Sporting shooters do not require a licence to possess or use a compound bow for sport or recreation. There is no proposal to change this position at this time.

Sporting organisations, including Archery Australia Inc, World Crossbow Shooting Association, Target Archery North Queensland and South Queensland Archery Society were consulted and supported the proposed amendments regarding crossbows.

The petitioners may wish to contact the Weapons Licensing Branch of the Queensland Police Service on telephone number 3364 4416, should they have any further queries about licensing requirements for compound bows and other weapons.

I trust this information is of assistance and thank you for bringing the concerns of the petitioners to my attention.

Yours sincerely

TERRY MACKENROTH