



**Senator Malcolm Roberts**  
One Nation Senator for Queensland

2 April 2020

The Premier  
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk  
PO Box 15185  
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Dear Premier

I was alarmed to recently hear that licenced dealers and armourers across Queensland were notified by Queensland Health that they must cease trading by close of business on Saturday, 28 March 2020.

I have been swamped with complaints from people who have lost their jobs and livelihoods because of this short sighted decision.

Other businesses such as the retail stores are able to carry on business without onerous conditions. This would appear to be discrimination.

A decision had been made by the Chief Health Officer, a public servant, in conjunction with you, to add all Licensed Firearm Dealers and Licensed Armourers to the list of non-essential business, with few exemptions.

I am told that this was done on the basis of perceived health needs to reduce threats of domestic violence, on the presumption that licenced shooters are likely to commit domestic violence if they can go to a gun dealer's shop.

This is absolutely untrue and has no foundation in fact.

Queensland already has some of the tightest gun management laws in the country.

There is no evidence in Australia that draws a link between domestic violence and gun ownership, or attending gun shops.

Why were the Weapons Licensing Branch and the police not consulted beforehand?

Why were industry representatives not consulted?

It is not possible to buy a gun over the counter from a dealership and leave with it.

I suggest that this response by the government goes well beyond the power of the State Government to make such a direction based on a health power and is clearly contrary to the National Firearm Agreement.

This constitutes a major employment problem across the State and 22,000 jobs have now been lost unnecessarily.

This has the potential to lead to mass bankruptcies of businesses with a total lost value to the Queensland economy of more than \$1 billion.

Many country outlets will have to close down and farmers, who constitute the main users of firearms and ammunition in the State, will be caught unable to deal with the needs of stock and feral management, necessary to be productive in a season of lush greenery.

The most recent Closure Directive (No 4) from the Department of Health is so restrictive to farmers that many are unable to purchase vital ammunition because of the limited Condition Codes on their Weapons Licences.

It will impact on an already overworked police service upon whose shoulders it will be to maintain some sort of security of firearms and fill the gap from the front counters of stations across the state.


Gun shop owners who had ordered weapons and/or ammunition prior to your government's capricious action would have originally been left in the position of either opening their shop and breaking your directive, or leaving weapons and ammunition in the hands of delivery companies or on their shop front door after delivery. Your government increased the security risk to the community and that risk was averted only through the advocacy of concerned gun shop owners and shooters representatives.

This is an example of poorly thought through and opportunistic government decision making that should worry all voters about intrusive and unjustified governments who can invent a reason to shut down people's livelihoods.

A legal challenge is likely unless the Queensland Government reverses this dangerous decision that may lead to widespread job loss and the destruction of yet another industry through poor government decision making.

To avoid all these negative outcomes I ask you to please reconsider this decision.

Yours sincerely



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