

Angela Holden

From: Premier
Sent: Wednesday, 16 October 2019 3:31 PM
To: the.premier@premiers.qld.gov.au
Subject: FW: Gel Blaster Association Inc

From: Inala Electorate Office <Inala@parliament.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 16 October 2019 2:40 PM
To: Premier <premier@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Gel Blaster Association Inc

FYI

Kind regards,

Virginia Healy
A/Electorate Officer

Office of Hon Anastacia Palaszczuk MP
State Member for Inala

PO Box 75, Inala QLD 4077
(07) 3737 2100
inala@parliament.qld.gov.au



From: Gel Ball Association QLD <president.gelballqld@outlook.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 16 October 2019 1:48 PM
To: Inala Electorate Office <Inala@parliament.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Gel Blaster Association Inc

Hi,

As discussed a few weeks ago with Ross Vasta MP in regards to the legalities of gel blasters

as a community we have had a lot of issues with ABF/AFP and home affairs in regards to what's legal and what's not. The Gel Blaster Association Inc is a not for profit organization that I started roughly a year ago when I saw the slippery slope that the hobby of gel balling was going down. The association currently represents over 22 retailers and field operators in the gel ball community. I have plenty of examples of some of the seizures that have been happening at the border which not only are these seizures illegal the government departments involved are also unwilling to work with anybody from the community about the seizures, even the association has struggled to discuss the import issues with the different departments. We just keep getting told the same thing that being "take us to court"

I will attach a copy of some of the examples of seizures that have happened for example:

A person I represent attempted to import 15 x gel blaster magazines and 2 gel blaster receivers now even though these items that were imported are completely different to airsoft parts in lots of ways ABF still decided to seize the items and say that they were (15 firearm magazines and 2 firearm receivers) this description is ridiculous how is it that someone with this much training can seize items as something that is so wrong.

Another example is a gel blaster magazine that was seized as a BB firearm magazine there are major differences between a bb magazine and a gel blaster magazine and if ABF cant tell those differences just by looking at them then I think they may be in the wrong career.

1 of the most ridiculous seizures that I have come across has to be that of 1 that happened a week ago a company that we represent imported 2 custom gel blaster prototypes in pieces with a B709a permit. ABF seized these items as air rifle parts so they sent a claim for return of goods form to ABF and attached a copy of the invoice from his manufacturer which stated that they were gel blaster parts and not air rifle parts. ABF then tried to strongarm my client by saying if he didn't withdraw his claim that ABF would take him to court and he would be liable for all costs due to this.

1 of the other seizures i have seen, ABF refused to give my client any information as to what had been seized therefore my client could not give ABF the correct B709A permit and ABF destroyed the item.

There are 2 major court cases happening right now 1 of which is for seized items from 3 years ago and is a claim for loss of income and illegally seizing items without releasing the items when they were suppose to. Another is an ongoing case where a business is being charged with being in possession of and selling over 500 firearms (gel blasters which are toys not firearms) once this case gets thrown out its going to be a nightmare for the government departments as the lawsuits that could happen from this will be huge.

AFP have been caught falsifying reports to make gel blasters look like something that they are not and it doesn't matter who we talk to we don't seem to be heard.

We keep hearing hints of legislation changes coming but nobody has asked anyone from the community how it should be legislated. Here at the association we agree that these toys SHOULD NOT ever be taken out in public as there is reasonable grounds for someone to mistake them as a real firearm but that doesn't mean that they are. My 2 kids both play gel ball 1 is 6 and the other is 10 I would much rather see them out on the field then behind the xbox or ipad.

The mental health benefits of gel ball is another huge factor to take in A LOT of ex forces use gel ball to help treat there PTSD and just in general people use it as a therapy for all different types of reasons.

The association would like the opportunity to assist parliament to legislate and we do believe that legislation is necessary but over legislation will absolutely destroy all the good that this sport/hobby is doing within the greater community and will cause more damage then acceptable. The association has started our own stop and think campaign in relation to the QPS one and all our business's support it aswell.

If you have any enquiries please feel free to call anytime on



Many thanks

nathan

GEL BLAST

ASSOCIATION I

Sent from president.gelballqld@outlook.com

Sent from president.gelballqld@outlook.com

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Released under RTI - DPC

Angela Holden

From: Premier
Sent: Tuesday, 4 February 2020 4:21 PM
To: the.premier@premiers.qld.gov.au
Subject: FW: The Gel Blaster Association Inc

From: Inala Electorate Office <Inala@parliament.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 4 February 2020 4:11 PM
To: Premier <premier@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Subject: FW: The Gel Blaster Association Inc

For your action and response, as appropriate.


Kind regards,

Lauren Fortnum
Assistant Electorate Officer

Office of Hon Anastacia Palaszczuk MP
State Member for Inala

PO Box 75, Inala QLD 4077
(07) 3737 2100
inala@parliament.qld.gov.au



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Your email may be used in future to keep in touch with you about local projects and events.

 Please consider the environment before printing this email

From: Gel Ball Association QLD <president.gelballqld@outlook.com>
Sent: Monday, 3 February 2020 5:14 PM
To: Inala Electorate Office <Inala@parliament.qld.gov.au>
Subject: The Gel Blaster Association Inc

Date: 1/2/2020

My name is Nathan Kirby I am the president of the "Gel Blaster Association Inc". Our association has been working with QPS, mainly WEAPONS LICENSING very closely to resolve as many issues surrounding The Gel blasters industry since August 2019. The reason for this is to streamline the decision making process. To prevent conjecture and to increase efficiency.

The association held a children's event named (Toy Soldiers) and I asked the local police station to do a visit for our safety brief in the morning of the event. Acting sergeant Bruce had absolutely no idea what the legalities were regarding gel blasters and had worrying concerns about the event which were all put to rest once I made him familiar with the QPS "Stop And Think" campaign.

Not only was this concerning to our event but also for the entire gel blaster community. As an association we have been pushing the "Stop And Think" campaign whole heartedly with majority of the community coming together to also do this as a vital safety part of every sale made. It raised so many questions!

"Why do QPS not know about their own Stop And Think Campaign?"

"If QPS aren't going to push the Stop And Think Campaign then whats the point?"

"Why implement a Stop And Think Campaign and then not do anything with it?"

"What has QPS done to prevent any issues happening surrounding gel blasters?"

The list goes on!!

Over the past 2 weeks I have taken it upon myself to see how effective the "QPS Stop And Think Campaign" was working within the Queensland Police Service by cold calling random police stations and asking them if they knew about the Stop And Think Campaign and also asked the legalities of gel blasters as far as they knew.

I am writing a list of police stations that I have called and given the same story to, so I could gauge their response. This was the story I told to each stations officer I spoke to:

"Hi my name is Nathan, my son just brought a gel blaster home from school and I'm wondering if you could please tell me the legalities behind them and could you also please explain to me the purpose of the QPS stop and think campaign flyer that was in the box?"

- **Surfers paradise station.**

(Constable Harrison)

Was informed that gel blasters would be illegal soon

"Recommended I dispose of the Gel blaster"

Had no idea What The Stop And Think Campaign was and asked me to explain.

- **Broadbeach Station**

(Samantha Mary)

Advised they are legal.

Had no idea about Stop And Think Campaign.

- **Henedra Station**

(Constable Braid)

Was informed QPS wants them banned and advised to dispose of blaster if possible.

Had no idea about the stop and think campaign.

- **Canungra Station**

(Constable Matthews)

Was informed that gel blasters are about to be banned.

Had no idea about Stop And Think Campaign.

- **Roma St Station**

(Adam Cottle)

Was informed that they are legal "at this stage" he said QPS was trying to ban them.

Had absolutely no idea about Stop And Think Campaign.

- **Mount Gravatt Beat**

(Jeremy)

Was informed that they are totally legal and just a toy.

Knew about the Stop And Think Campaign but wasn't privy to the particulars.

- **Upper Mount Gravatt Station**

(Jeramiah)

Was informed that they are currently legal but legislation changing to make them illegal.

No idea about the Stop And Think Campaign.

- **Coolum Station**

(Angus Green)

He referred to me as a "Gun Nut"

Was told that they are legal but recommended I disposed of it as they were being banned.

He had no idea about the Stop And Think Campaign.

- **Maroochydore station**

(Sergeant James)

Said gel blasters are perfectly legal.

Knew exactly what the Stop And Think Campaign was.

- **Nerang station**

(Constable Mary)

Informed gel blasters were legal

Had no idea about Stop And Think Campaign.

- **Caloundra Station**

(Sergeant Grain)

Was informed that gel blasters are about to be illegal.

Had no idea about Stop And Think Campaign.

- **Nambour Station**

(Constable Cropps)

Was informed gel blasters are perfectly legal

Had no idea about the Stop And Think Campaign

- **Ipswich Station**

(Sergeant Weilder)

Was informed that gel blasters are a toy but that's about to change (wouldn't elaborate)

Had no idea about Stop And Think Campaign.

- **Yamanto Station**

(Constable Smith)

Was informed gel blasters are just a toy

Had no idea about Stop And Think Campaign

As apart of this research I also called each department of "District Crime Prevention" for the same purpose and the results were dissappointing to say the least.....

North Brisbane District

South Brisbane District

Far North District

Sunshine Coast District

Darling Downs District

Ipswich District

Moreton District

Gold Coast District

Logan District

Each person I spoke to from the crime prevention units had absolutely no idea about any of the relevant legislation in regards to gel blasters. I was even questioned by multiple people as to why we would allow kids to play with these "guns" nobody had any idea about the Stop And Think Campaign that was initiated by the Queensland Police Service themselves.

Out of everyone I spoke to the ONLY person that took the initiative to ask what the Stop And Think Campaign was, was the lovely Sargent from the Ipswich District so I directed her to the QPS webpage where the gel blasters section had been added. She had no idea it was even on the QPS website until I made her aware!

All in all it was a really frustrating experience. The associations and all the retailers involved had been pushing the Stop and Think campaign to ensure our community remains safe and available. We have been hoping to get the same initiative/support from QPS and not receiving this is concerning.

With the upcoming forum we thought we would take the opportunity to state our position when it comes to a change in regulations. We will not be supporting any changes whatsoever when it comes to Gel blasters.

We are representatives of the retailers whom have made an extraordinary effort to educate the public on the responsible use of toy gel blasters. We represent Businesses that have spent money and time on the campaign and have used their voice on social media. We have seen the retail community come together for a common cause and we are very disappointed to find out that the QPS service has made such little effort.

We understand that gel blaster related incidents have been declining and for that we can thank the efforts of our members and not the police force it seems.

In light of this new information the Gel Blaster Association and all of its members refute any legislation amendments or proposals until the "Stop and think campaign" has been roll out efficiently and all parties involve have performed their roles in their entirety. This will ensure the campaign is given its chance to be successful.

Signed

Nathan Kirby

President
Gel Blaster Association Inc.

GEL BLAS

ASSOCIATION

Sent from president.gelballqld@outlook.com

Consider the environment before you print this email.

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Angela Holden

From: Premier
Sent: Wednesday, 22 July 2020 8:23 AM
To: Zoe Bos
Subject: FW: Gel Blaster Regulation

Importance: High

FYI

-----Original Message-----

From: donotreply_webcontactform@cabinet.qld.gov.au <donotreply_webcontactform@cabinet.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 22 July 2020 1:24 AM
To: Premier <premier@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Gel Blaster Regulation
Importance: High

Cabinet Contact email for Jennifer Howard MP Assistant Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Assistant Minister of State

Subject: Gel Blaster Regulation

Title: [REDACTED]

First Name: [REDACTED]

Family Name: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

Town: [REDACTED]

State: [REDACTED]

Postcode: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Comment:

Dear Minister Jennifer,

I am writing to you in regards to the legislation regulating gel blasters recently passes in the Queensland Parliament. While i understand the need and support reasonable regulation on these toys due to it's inevitable misuse , i feel that these new regulations are a overreaching and unnecessary. There already exist laws that make the misuse of these toys a crime in these laws carrying an unconcealed blaster in public is punishable by 2 years imprisonment, and 3-7 years imprisonment for pointing or firing a blaster at someone without consent. In addition, most store self regulate by not selling them to kids without a parent present and will give a brief on the QPS stop and think campaign material for every sale of a gel blaster regardless of how many one has bought from them. These laws already give police the authority to step in and act in the rare occasion these toys are misused. The new regulations just goes beyond whats needed and might i say just adds arbitrary regulations that does nothing but troubles the average person responsibly enjoying this growing sport.

What i think would be a better solution to the increase in the illegal use of gel blasters is the enforcement of existing law, there have been 352 crimes involving gel blasters over the past few years, i wish to know why only 85 charges were laid? If the police really think that these toys are such a threat, why were there charges laid on only 24% of these incidents? Could the lack of enforcement give the impression that the people who misuse them can get away with it?

Furthermore, is the response to this proportionate to the threat it presents? The vast majority of gel blaster owners are responsible hobbyist keen to get out and have some fun on proper facilities or in their own property away from the general public. I think the numbers speak for it self with more than 700,000 gel blasters in circulation and only 325 incidents occurred, that is 0.00046%. While i agree that gel blaster look very much like the guns their modeled after and can cause fear in the public but they are essentially harmless toys beyond that, the gels they fire disintegrate on impact and at worse leaves a 7mm welt. One could cause the same fear with a \$5 cap gun available from any toy store that looks the same and fires caps that can sound like a firearm to the untrained ear. In contrast, things like knives are vastly more dangerous than gel blasters ever will be, they have the ability to seriously injure and actually kill people but are no where near as heavily regulated, we do not need to join a club to own a knife, nor do we need to lock it away.

Gel blasters and the game gel-soft has so many huge benefits that over-regulation could very quickly squash, some that we can already see is that kids are getting off their screens and going out and being active again, with a obesity epidemic i think any outlet for people to be active is highly valuable. furthermore, the sense of community that this sport brings just as in any sport is invaluable when people are feeling lonelier at higher rates than ever before, not to mention the many testimonials on how the sport has helped people with mental health issues or veterans struggling back home. Additionally, this is an industry that is growing at an exponential rate, the economic benefits that this brings along with it has to be protected especially now with COVID-19 wreaking havoc on the economy and leaving many jobless. To add, this sport presents an unusual opportunity for interstate tourism as the sport is illegal in most of the county, people are willing to travel into Queensland for the chance to enjoy the sport and spend in Queensland while visiting which helps boost local economies, i think this valuable opportunity should be supported and not shunned. I am aware of a sizable number of people who visits Queensland for this especially coming from NSW.

I implore you to meet the people responsibly enjoying this hobby, visit a store selling these toys or even join a game. I think your view on this might change, because these toys are doing so much more good in the community compare to the few criminals scaring people who would move on to different tactics to cause even if these toys are out right banned. I ask that you reconsider your support on this new legislation, i also ask that you and your peers put more scrutiny on the police that they properly enforce the existing laws instead of allowing so many to 75% of the criminals slip through without consequence. if QPS is unable to enforce existing laws, adding more laws will not change a thing as criminals will still get a hold of and use gel blasted illegally while preventing responsible hobbyist from enjoying the sport and its benefits. Finally, i would love the chance to have a conversation with you regarding this issue if you had the time, i would also love to point you to a store to visit and meet some of the people enjoying the sport responsibly.

Kind regards,
█

Pages 14 through 25 redacted for the following reasons:

Access Deferred

Released under RTI - DPC

Angela Holden

From: Premcorro
Sent: Friday, 12 June 2020 8:20 AM
To: Execofficer
Subject: FW: DCOSACTION FW: **PREMIER LETTER FOR APPROVAL** TF/20/6475 - EMAIL from Mark Ryan, MP

Attachments: ELECTRONIC LETTERHEAD Premiers response ~an re consultation undertaken on the Replica Firearms Amendment Regulation 2020.DOCX; PRIORITY EMAIL from Mark Ryan, MP - advi~earms) Amendment Regulation 2020 (the Amendment Regulation), has been completed.EML

Please hold this one for now – Department are doing updates

From: Premcorro
Sent: Wednesday, 29 April 2020 12:43 PM
To: Denise Spinks <Denise.Spinks@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Subject: DCOSACTION FW: **PREMIER LETTER FOR APPROVAL** TF/20/6475 - EMAIL from Mark Ryan, MP

Hi Denise,

This has been approved by Paul. For your approval before going to Jim and then the Premier.

Thanks,
ZB

From: DCLO Admin <dcloadmin@premiers.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 24 April 2020 11:11 AM
To: Premcorro <premcorro@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Cc: DCLO Admin <dcloadmin@premiers.qld.gov.au>
Subject: **PREMIER LETTER FOR APPROVAL** TF/20/6475 - EMAIL from Mark Ryan, MP

Exempt Sch.3(2)(1)(b) Cabinet considerations

Good morning

Please find attached draft response and priority mail notification for your review and approval to apply the PREMIER'S electronic signature.

This has been approved by DG Dave Stewart today, Friday 24 April 2020.

Kind regards



**Queensland
Government**

Sharni Sawyer
Assistant Departmental & Customer Liaison Officer
Departmental and Customer Liaison Office
Office of the Director-General - Department of the Premier and Cabinet

P 07 3003 9424 M [REDACTED]
Level 40, 1 William Street, Brisbane QLD 4000
PO Box 15185, City East, QLD 4002

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Angela Holden

From: Angela Holden
Sent: Friday, 12 June 2020 8:22 AM
To: Paul Keene
Cc: Zoe Bos; Kay Swanston
Subject: RE: REQUEST FOR RETRIEVAL OF E-LETTER FOR UPDATING - TF/20/6475 - Mark Ryan, MP - advising further consultation on the Weapons Categories (Replica Firearms) Amendment Regulation 2020 (the Amendment Regulation), has been completed

Hi Paul,
FYI this had been allocated to the Premier for signing and I had advised Mat to hold for now. I will let the Department know we have ceased progressing as requested.
Kind regards
Angela

From: DCLO Admin <dcloadmin@premiers.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 11 June 2020 5:27 PM
To: Paul Keene <Paul.Keene@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Cc: DCLO Admin <dcloadmin@premiers.qld.gov.au>; Angela Holden <Angela.Holden@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Zoe Bos <Zoe.Bos@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Kay Swanston <Kay.Swanston@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Subject: REQUEST FOR RETRIEVAL OF E-LETTER FOR UPDATING - TF/20/6475 - Mark Ryan, MP - advising further consultation on the Weapons Categories (Replica Firearms) Amendment Regulation 2020 (the Amendment Regulation), has been completed

Hi Paul

Could you please cease progressing the attached and above response.

The department is making some updates based on further advice from QPS.

An updated version will be submitted for approval.

Thank you
Glenys



Queensland
Government

Glenys Jenkin

Manager, Departmental and Customer Liaison Office
Office of the Director-General
Department of the Premier and Cabinet

P 07 3003 9461 M [REDACTED]
Level 40, 1 William Street, Brisbane QLD 4000
PO Box 15185, City East, QLD 4002

From: Sean Kricker <sean.kricker@premiers.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 11 June 2020 4:20 PM
To: DCLO Admin <dcloadmin@premiers.qld.gov.au>
Cc: Sally Lohrisch <sally.lohrisch@premiers.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Update required for outgoing correspondence to Minister Ryan TF/20/6475

Good afternoon,

A letter of response from the Premier to Minister Ryan regarding approval for a regulation requires an update due to new advice from QPS. The letter is currently with the Premier's Office and is in TF/20/6475.

Are you able to reassign the letter back to me to make the appropriate updates?

Regards,
Sean.



Queensland
Government

Sean Kricker

Senior Policy Officer, Social Policy

Policy Division

Department of the Premier and Cabinet

P 07 3003 9164 M [REDACTED]

Level 30, 1 William Street, Brisbane QLD 4000

PO Box 15185, City East, QLD 4002

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Angela Holden

From: Angela Holden
Sent: Friday, 12 June 2020 8:22 AM
To: 'DCLO Admin'
Subject: FW: REQUEST FOR RETRIEVAL OF E-LETTER FOR UPDATING - TF/20/6475 - Mark Ryan, MP - advising further consultation on the Weapons Categories (Replica Firearms) Amendment Regulation 2020 (the Amendment Regulation), has been completed

Thanks DCLO – we have ceased progressing

From: DCLO Admin <dcloadmin@premiers.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 11 June 2020 5:27 PM
To: Paul Keene <Paul.Keene@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Cc: DCLO Admin <dcloadmin@premiers.qld.gov.au>; Angela Holden <Angela.Holden@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Zoe Bos <Zoe.Bos@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Kay Swanston <Kay.Swanston@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Subject: REQUEST FOR RETRIEVAL OF E-LETTER FOR UPDATING - TF/20/6475 - Mark Ryan, MP - advising further consultation on the Weapons Categories (Replica Firearms) Amendment Regulation 2020 (the Amendment Regulation), has been completed

Hi Paul

Could you please cease progressing the attached and above response.

The department is making some updates based on further advice from QPS.

An updated version will be submitted for approval.

Thank you
Glenys



Queensland
Government

Glenys Jenkin

Manager, Departmental and Customer Liaison Office
Office of the Director-General
Department of the Premier and Cabinet

P 07 3003 9461 / M [REDACTED]
Level 40, 1 William Street, Brisbane QLD 4000
PO Box 15185, City East, QLD 4002

From: Sean Kricker <sean.kricker@premiers.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 11 June 2020 4:20 PM
To: DCLO Admin <dcloadmin@premiers.qld.gov.au>
Cc: Sally Lohrisch <sally.lohrisch@premiers.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Update required for outgoing correspondence to Minister Ryan TF/20/6475

Good afternoon,

A letter of response from the Premier to Minister Ryan regarding approval for a regulation requires an update due to new advice from QPS. The letter is currently with the Premier's Office and is in TF/20/6475.

Are you able to reassign the letter back to me to make the appropriate updates?

Regards,
Sean.



Queensland
Government

Sean Kricker

Senior Policy Officer, Social Policy

Policy Division

Department of the Premier and Cabinet

P 07 3003 9164 M [REDACTED]

Level 30, 1 William Street, Brisbane QLD 4000

PO Box 15185, City East, QLD 4002

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Pages 44 through 46 redacted for the following reasons:

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Angela Holden

From: Premcorro
Sent: Wednesday, 1 July 2020 9:24 AM
To: Troy Mitchell
Subject: FW: APPROVED BRIEFS- Monday 30 June 2020

FYI

From: Mathew Cooper <Mathew.Cooper@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 30 June 2020 5:21 PM
To: Premcorro <premcorro@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Cc: Denise Spinks <Denise.Spinks@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Jim Murphy <Jim.Murphy@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Kay Swanston <Kay.Swanston@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Donna O'Donoghue <donna.odonoghue@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Subject: APPROVED BRIEFS- Monday 30 June 2020

Hi all,

Please find below approved Briefs by the Premier on Monday 30 June 2020, feel free to forward on to relevant advisor, signed hard copy with Kay.

Not relevant



Released under RTI - DPC

Page 48 redacted for the following reason:

Not relevant

Released under RTI - DPC

8. TF/20/6475 - EMAIL from Mark Ryan, MP

Exempt Sch.3(2)(1)(b) Cabinet considerations

SIGNED the letter responding to Minister Ryan

Not relevant

Released under RTI - DPC

Zoe Bos

From: Premier
Sent: Wednesday, 22 July 2020 8:23 AM
To: Zoe Bos
Subject: FW: Gel Blaster Regulation

Importance: High

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

FYI

-----Original Message-----

From: donotreply_webcontactform@cabinet.qld.gov.au <donotreply_webcontactform@cabinet.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 22 July 2020 1:24 AM
To: Premier <premier@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Gel Blaster Regulation
Importance: High

Cabinet Contact email for Jennifer Howard MP Assistant Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Assistant Minister of State

Subject: Gel Blaster Regulation

Title: [REDACTED]

First Name: [REDACTED]

Family Name: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

Town: [REDACTED]

State: [REDACTED]

Postcode: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Comment:

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What i think would be a better solution to the increase in the illegal use of gel blasters is the enforcement of existing law, there have been 352 crimes involving gel blasters over the past few years, i wish to know why only 85 charges were laid? If the police really think that these toys are such a threat, why were there charges laid on only 24% of

these incidents? Could the lack of enforcement give the impression that the people who misuse them can get away with it?

Furthermore, is the response to this proportionate to the threat it presents? The vast majority of gel blaster owners are responsible hobbyist keen to get out and have some fun on proper facilities or in their own property away from the general public. I think the numbers speak for it self with more than 700,000 gel blasters in circulation and only 325 incidents occurred, that is 0.00046%. While i agree that gel blaster look very much like the guns their modeled after and can cause fear in the public but they are essentially harmless toys beyond that, the gels they fire disintegrate on impact and at worse leaves a 7mm welt. One could cause the same fear with a \$5 cap gun available from any toy store that looks the same and fires caps that can sound like a firearm to the untrained ear. In contrast, things like knives are vastly more dangerous than gel blasters ever will be, they have the ability to seriously injure and actually kill people but are no where near as heavily regulated, we do not need to join a club to own a knife, nor do we need to lock it away.

Gel blasters and the game gel-soft has so many huge benefits that over-regulation could very quickly squash, some that we can already see is that kids are getting off their screens and going out and being active again, with a obesity epidemic i think any outlet for people to be active is highly valuable. furthermore, the sense of community that this sport brings just as in any sport is invaluable when people are feeling lonelier at higher rates than ever before, not to mention the many testimonials on how the sport has helped people with mental health issues or veterans struggling back home. Additionally, this is an industry that is growing at an exponential rate, the economic benefits that this brings along with it has to be protected especially now with COVID-19 wreaking havoc on the economy and leaving many jobless. To add, this sport presents an unusual opportunity for interstate tourism as the sport is illegal in most of the county, people are willing to travel into Queensland for the chance to enjoy the sport and spend in Queensland while visiting which helps boost local economies, i think this valuable opportunity should be supported and not shunned. I am aware of a sizable number of people who visits Queensland for this especially coming from NSW.

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[REDACTED]

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From: Zoe Bos
Sent: Wednesday, 22 July 2020 11:08 AM
To: 'DCLO Admin'
Subject: FW: Gel Blaster Regulation

Importance: High

Hi DCLO,

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Sent: Wednesday, 22 July 2020 12:29 PM
To: Zoe Bos
Cc: DCLO Admin
Subject: RE: Gel Blaster Regulation

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

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Glenys Jenkin
Manager, Departmental and Customer Liaison Office Office of the Director-General Department of the Premier and Cabinet

P 07 3003 9461 M [REDACTED]
Level 40, 1 William Street, Brisbane QLD 4000 PO Box 15185, City East, QLD 4002

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Zoe Bos

From: Zoe Bos
Sent: Wednesday, 22 July 2020 12:32 PM
To: 'DCLO Admin'
Subject: RE: Gel Blaster Regulation

Yes if you could, that would be great

Thanks Glenys

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Sent: Wednesday, 22 July 2020 12:37 PM
To: Zoe Bos
Subject: RE: Gel Blaster Regulation

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Will do
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G 😊

Glenys Jenkin
Manager, Departmental and Customer Liaison Office Office of the Director-General Department of the Premier and Cabinet

P 07 3003 9461 M [REDACTED]
Level 40, 1 William Street, Brisbane QLD 4000 PO Box 15185, City East, QLD 4002

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What i think would be a better solution to the increase in the illegal use of gel blasters is the enforcement of existing law, there have been 352 crimes involving gel blasters over the past few years, i wish to know why only 85 charges were laid? If the police really think that these toys are such a threat, why were there charges laid on only 24% of these incidents? Could the lack of enforcement give the impression that the people who misuse them can get away with it?

Furthermore, is the response to this proportionate to the threat it presents? The vast majority of gel blaster owners are responsible hobbyist keen to get out and have some fun on proper facilities or in their own property away from the general public. I think the numbers speak for it self with more than 700,000 gel blasters in circulation and only 325 incidents occurred, that is 0.00046%. While i agree that gel blaster look very much like the guns their modeled after and can cause fear in the public but they are essentially harmless toys beyond that, the gels they fire disintegrate on impact and at worse leaves a 7mm welt. One could cause the same fear with a \$5 cap gun available from any toy store that looks the same and fires caps that can sound like a firearm to the untrained ear. In contrast, things like knives are vastly more dangerous than gel blasters ever will be, they have the ability to seriously injure and actually kill people but are no where near as heavily regulated, we do not need to join a club to own a knife, nor do we need to lock it away.

Gel blasters and the game gel-soft has so many huge benefits that over-regulation could very quickly squash, some that we can already see is that kids are getting off their screens and going out and being active again, with a obesity epidemic i think any outlet for people to be active is highly valuable. furthermore, the sense of community that this sport brings just as in any sport is invaluable when people are feeling lonelier at higher rates than ever before, not to mention the many testimonials on how the sport has helped people with mental health issues or veterans struggling back home. Additionally, this is an industry that is growing at an exponential rate, the economic benefits that this brings along with it has to be protected especially now with COVID-19 wreaking havoc on the economy and leaving many jobless. To add, this sport presents an unusual opportunity for interstate tourism as the sport is illegal in most of the county, people are willing to travel into Queensland for the chance to enjoy the sport and spend in Queensland while visiting which helps boost local economies, i think this valuable opportunity should be supported and not shunned. I am aware of a sizable number of people who visits Queensland for this especially coming from NSW.

I implore you to meet the people responsibly enjoying this hobby, visit a store selling these toys or even join a game. I think your view on this might change, because these toys are doing so much more good in the community compare to the few criminals scaring people who would move on to different tactics to cause even if these toys are out right banned. I ask that you reconsider your support on this new legislation, i also ask that you and your peers put more scrutiny on the police that they properly enforce the existing laws instead of allowing so many to 75% of the criminals slip through without consequence. if QPS is unable to enforce existing laws, adding more laws will not change a thing as criminals will still get a hold of and use gel blasted illegally while preventing responsible hobbyist from enjoying the sport and its benefits. Finally, i would love the chance to have a conversation with you regarding this issue if you had the time, i would also love to point you to a store to visit and meet some of the people enjoying the sport responsibly.

Kind regards,

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Release Under RIPA

Zoe Bos

From: Angela Holden
Sent: Friday, 12 June 2020 8:22 AM
To: Paul Keene
Cc: Zoe Bos; Kay Swanston
Subject: RE: REQUEST FOR RETRIEVAL OF E-LETTER FOR UPDATING - TF/20/6475 - Mark Ryan, MP - advising further consultation on the Weapons Categories (Replica Firearms) Amendment Regulation 2020 (the Amendment Regulation), has been completed

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Hi Paul,
FYI this had been allocated to the Premier for signing and I had advised Mat to hold for now.
I will let the Department know we have ceased progressing as requested.
Kind regards
Angela

From: DCLO Admin <dcloadmin@premiers.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 11 June 2020 5:27 PM
To: Paul Keene <Paul.Keene@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Cc: DCLO Admin <dcloadmin@premiers.qld.gov.au>; Angela Holden <Angela.Holden@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Zoe Bos <Zoe.Bos@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Kay Swanston <Kay.Swanston@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Subject: REQUEST FOR RETRIEVAL OF E-LETTER FOR UPDATING - TF/20/6475 - Mark Ryan, MP - advising further consultation on the Weapons Categories (Replica Firearms) Amendment Regulation 2020 (the Amendment Regulation), has been completed

Hi Paul

Could you please cease progressing the attached and above response.

The department is making some updates based on further advice from QPS.

An updated version will be submitted for approval.

Thank you
Glenys



Glenys Jenkin
Manager, Departmental and Customer Liaison Office
Office of the Director-General
Department of the Premier and Cabinet
P 07 3003 9461 M [REDACTED]
Level 40, 1 William Street, Brisbane QLD 4000
PO Box 15185, City East, QLD 4002

From: Sean Kricker <sean.kricker@premiers.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 11 June 2020 4:20 PM
To: DCLO Admin <dcloadmin@premiers.qld.gov.au>

Cc: Sally Lohrisch <sally.lohrisch@premiers.qld.gov.au>

Subject: Update required for outgoing correspondence to Minister Ryan TF/20/6475

Good afternoon,

A letter of response from the Premier to Minister Ryan regarding approval for a regulation requires an update due to new advice from QPS. The letter is currently with the Premier's Office and is in TF/20/6475.

Are you able to reassign the letter back to me to make the appropriate updates?

Regards,
Sean.



Queensland
Government

Sean Kricker

Senior Policy Officer, Social Policy

Policy Division

Department of the Premier and Cabinet

P 07 3003 9164 M [REDACTED]

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PO Box 15185, City East, QLD 4002

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Premier of Queensland
Minister for Trade

For reply please quote: *SocPol/AE – TF/20/6475 – DOC/20/66648*

The Honourable Mark Ryan MP
Minister for Police and
Minister for Corrective Services
police@ministerial.qld.gov.au

1 William Street Brisbane
PO Box 15185 City East
Queensland 4002 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3719 7000
Email ThePremier@premiers.qld.gov.au
Website www.thepremier.qld.gov.au

Dear Minister

Exempt Sch.3(2)(1)(b) Cabinet considerations

I appreciate the significant efforts made by your office and the Queensland Police Service (QPS) to comprehensively engage with stakeholders on the Replica Firearms policy. I understand that this ongoing consultation with key stakeholder groups has culminated with their in-principle support for the new policy and its corresponding regulatory amendments.

Exempt Sch.3(2)(1)(b) Cabinet considerations

I note that the Amendment Regulation is not due to commence until 1 August 2020. I understand that this is to allow stakeholders to prepare for the new policy and for there to also be clear communication of the changes to the broader community.

I encourage both your office and the QPS to continue your engagement with key stakeholder groups prior to commencement of the Amendment Regulation. I also ask that your office and the QPS ensure that the changes are communicated more broadly prior to commencement, noting, in particular, the large number of gel blasters owned throughout the Queensland community, including by young people.

To this end, I would be grateful for an update on implementation progress prior to the commencement of the Amendment Regulation. This update should include information regarding the preparedness of key stakeholder groups to adhere to the changes and the steps taken to communicate the new policy clearly to the broader community.

Thank you again for bringing this matter to my attention and for your ongoing hard work to enhance community safety in Queensland.

Yours sincerely

**ANNASTACIA PALASZCZUK MP
PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND
MINISTER FOR TRADE**

Pages 67 through 78 redacted for the following reasons:

Access Deferred

Released under RTI - DPC

Paul Keene

From: Paul Keene
Sent: Monday, 20 July 2020 2:39 PM
To: 'DCLO Admin'
Subject: RE: For your advice please - correspondence about gel blasters

Good afternoon Glenys,

They can all be referred to the Minister's office.

Regards,



Queensland
Government

Paul Keene
Senior Policy Advisor
Office of the Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk MP
Premier of Queensland and Minister for Trade
P 3719 7016 M [REDACTED]
1 William Street Brisbane QLD 4000
PO Box 15185 City East QLD 4002

From: DCLO Admin <dcloadmin@premiers.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 20 July 2020 2:33 PM
To: Paul Keene <Paul.Keene@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Cc: DCLO Admin <dcloadmin@premiers.qld.gov.au>
Subject: For your advice please - correspondence about gel blasters

Hi Paul

The Premier has started to receive emails in opposition to the regulation of gel blasters and the recent passing of legislation.

I have attached several examples for your review. All are individualised text.

Can you please provide advice about how you would like to manage this correspondence? Would you like to see all as blue sheeted correspondence, refer or seek a standard response.

At present only seven have been received.

Kind regards
Glenys



Queensland
Government

Glenys Jenkin
Manager, Departmental and Customer Liaison Office
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Department of the Premier and Cabinet
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