1. In 2006, the then Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Sport announced a review of the *Weapons Act 1990* and subordinate legislation and established the Weapons Review Committee that considered submissions from the public, the weapons industry and the Queensland Police Service. The Committee identified over 440 proposals for legislative change to the Act, the *Weapons Categories Regulation 1997* and the *Weapons Regulation 1996*. The Committee also recommended that the legislation be restructured to meet the changing needs of the community and user groups.
2. These proposals and recommendations were reflected in the Weapons Bill 2010. The Weapons Bill 2010 was released as an exposure draft Bill in August 2010 and attracted a further 2,500 online submissions and comments. In this regard amendments to the weapons legislation will be progressed in two stages.
3. The Weapons Amendment Bill 2011 reflects the first stage of this process and aligns, wherever possible, to national weapons legislation agreements. The objectives of the Bill are to be primarily achieved by:
* Increasing penalties for behavioural offences involving weapons;
* extending the current definition of bladed weapons in line with national standards to include: ballistic knife, butterfly knife, flick knife; push knife; sheath knife, star knife, trench knife and other knives that are concealed in other items such as riding crops, walking sticks and other apparel or accessories;
* regulating the possession and use of laser pointers with an output greater than 1 milliwatt;
* regulating the possession and use of high-capacity detachable magazines for category B firearms;
* defining an approved safety training course and what the Commissioner may consider in approving such a course for the purposes of obtaining a firearms licence;
* clarifying that a person may have physical possession of a knife in a public place, other than a school, for a genuine religious purpose;
* removing licensing and registration requirements for permanently deactivated public monuments;
* exempting off-duty members of the Queensland Police Service and special constables required to possess service issued weapons and exhibits;
* clarifying that incorporated shooting clubs must nominate a representative;
* clarifying that range officers cannot be minors;
* permitting range officers from another State or Territory to officiate on ranges;
* introducing additional genuine reasons for possession of a weapon to include medieval re-enactments, paint pellet sports and for the collection, preservation and study of weapons;
* allowing an exemption from a provision of the Act to be revoked if the exemption is breached;
* adopting the Australian Federal Police Firearm Deactivation Standards;
* amending the Categories Regulation to better define body armour; and
* amending Schedule 2 of the Regulation to reflect changes to government service entities and prescribed functions.
1. Cabinet approved the introduction of the Weapons Amendment Bill 2011 into the Legislative Assembly.
2. *Attachments:*
* [Weapons Amendment Bill 2011](Attachments/WeaponsAmB11.pdf)
* [Explanatory Notes for the Weapons Amendment Bill 2011](Attachments/WeaponsAmB11Exp.pdf)