

Your Ref: Ms Julie Copley

Our Ref: Criminal Law Section: 21000339/132

18 May 2011

Ms Julie Copley
Research Director
Scrutiny of Legislation Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

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Dear Research Director

WEAPONS AMENDMENT BILL 2011

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the *Weapons Amendment Bill 2011*.

We note the Police Minister's, the Honourable Neil Roberts, comments that the Government's proposed changes to the weapons legislation will take place in two stages with the first being the *Weapons Amendment Bill 2011*.

We note the Government's intention to regulate the possession of laser pointers and their classification as a weapon if found to be more than 1 milliwatt in strength. The Society acknowledges the possible misuse of laser pointers and supports regulation of certain conduct using those which have a strength of greater than 1 milliwatt, to accord with the *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations (Cth)*.

The Government has, with clauses 9-17 of the Bill sought to increase the penalties associated with certain offences. Whilst penalty alone has been amended in the Bill, the Society emphasises the importance of the principle of an unfettered sentencing discretion within any sentencing court.

We look forward to the opportunity to be involved in the consultation process with stage 2 of the Government's legislative reform.

Yours faithfully

Raoul Giudes
Vice President