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From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, 22 July 2026 4:17 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Machete and firearms legislation

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Minister Ellis,

I hope you can find the time in your busy and no doubt frustrating schedule to consider the following. Probably nothing you don't already know.

1. Machetes
I can understand the call for banning items that may be misused by criminals but it is obvious substitutes can be easily found for whatever is banned, as has occurred in Victoria. After their machete ban substitute "tools / weapons" were soon found for criminal use.

Banning is a very poor substitute for suitable legal **deterrence** for repeat offenders and diversion of young offenders from criminal activity.

There appears to be a capitulation by the legal system in this state and in this country in general, from long term effective action to reduce recidivism, the legal system continues to soak up huge amounts of money and repeat offenders just continue to offend.

It is hardly any wonder that the legal system is becoming ever more clogged.
There needs to be a detailed review and introduction of programmes that have been found to be successful both here (in the past) and overseas. Successful introduction of such should be much more cost effective and productive than the current legal system.

In some situations machetes are the only real option for clearing vegetation from difficult, steep and fire prone areas. There is sometimes no real alternative for various practical reasons.
Surely there can be some dispensation for farmers, people with legitimate need in normal residential areas and for workers who need to use such items for their necessary scrub clearing duties.

2. Firearms
I was under the impression that there is a potential 10 year prison sentence for anyone having an illegal / unregistered firearm yet, as seen again recently, firearms continue to be stolen. Limiting firearm numbers and increasing storage requirements would not be necessary if there was more **deterrence** in the legal system. The handing out of a few **full** 10 year sentences may solve the problem but they never seem to be given. (One wonders why this is.)

I hope the above points will be considered during preparation of new legislation. Perhaps we need a **justice** system, not a legal system.

Bob J.
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