



The Hon. Ben Carroll MP

Deputy Premier
Minister for Education
Minister for WorkSafe and the TAC

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Melbourne Victoria 3002
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Robert McDonald
Clerk of the Legislative Council
Legislative Council
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Robert,

Dear Mr McDonald

RE: PETITION TABLED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Thank you for your letter dated 29 January 2025, notifying me of the petition tabled in the Legislative Council by Georgie Purcell, Member for the Northern Victoria Region, calling on the Victorian Government to move towards a total ban on fireworks in the State.

I appreciate the Member's concern and thank the Member for sponsoring this petition.

The Allan Labor Government is aware of the risks that fireworks can pose if handled improperly. That is why it is a criminal offence to buy, sell or use a firework in Victoria, unless you are a qualified and licensed pyrotechnician.

Fireworks are regulated as explosives under the *Dangerous Goods Act 1985* and the *Dangerous Goods (Explosives) Regulations 2022*, meaning it is a crime for anyone other than a licensed pyrotechnician to buy or use them in Victoria – whether in a public area or on private property. Those caught illegally selling, buying or using fireworks in Victoria can face thousands of dollars in fines or even jail time under the *Dangerous Goods Act*.

Before setting off any fireworks, licensed pyrotechnicians must give at least 7 days' notice to WorkSafe and other relevant bodies such as local councils and fire authorities. WorkSafe assesses plans and considers several factors, including separation distances from the public and property, and that the appropriate number of pyrotechnician assistants are on hand for the size of the display.

In 2024, WorkSafe Victoria destroyed 14,215 individual fireworks with a combined weight of more than 470 kilograms, and collected an additional 7,962 individual fireworks that have been handed in or seized by Victoria Police.

The Allan Labor Government is committed to keeping Victorians safe and this extends to the use of fireworks in the state.

Thank you for raising this matter with me. I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ben Carroll'.

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4 / 3 / 2025