

EXPLOSIVES (FIREWORKS SAFETY) AMENDMENT BILL

EXPLANATORY NOTE

1. This Bill deals with the retail sale of fireworks (as defined in the Schedule to the Explosives Act 1957) to young persons under the age of 16 years. Since an amendment to the Act in 1973, to restrict sales of fireworks to 10 days before Guy Fawkes Day, a continuing accident rate in this age group has had as a large contributing factor, the ease with which fireworks may be obtained.

Notwithstanding the annual safety campaign by the "Fireworks Lady" (as Beverley Pentland is known) or the restricted sales period (also promoted by Mrs Pentland), a further measure of protection in the form of an age restriction will provide a statutory background from which responsible parents and others may exercise more efficient supervision of the vulnerable youngster.

2. Throughout the world, various governments have adopted differing controls on the sale of fireworks. These range from total prohibition, in some states of America (with associated black-market problems), through to the age restriction imposed in Great Britain, but with no limit on time of sales, to the combined age restriction and limited sales period utilised in Canada, New South Wales and Tasmania. Information from overseas shows that the most effective method of controlling the misuse of fireworks is an age restriction with a limited sales period.

3. Penalties in the Explosives Act 1957 will be applicable to offences under the new *section 23B*. Any such action may be taken in the District Court.

4. This Bill, in introducing an age limit to complement the existing limited sales period, will reduce the incidence of injury, while ensuring that the pleasure enjoyed by youngsters on Guy Fawkes Day is not unnecessarily curtailed.

Mr Terris

EXPLOSIVES (FIREWORKS SAFETY) AMENDMENT

ANALYSIS

Title
1. Short Title

2. Fireworks not to be sold to persons under
16 years of age

A BILL INTITULED

An Act to reform the law relating to the sale of fireworks

BE IT ENACTED by the General Assembly of New Zealand in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1. Short Title—This Act may be cited as the Explosives (Fireworks Safety) Amendment Act 1984, and shall be read together with and deemed part of the Explosives Act 1957 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act).

10 **2. Fireworks not to be sold to persons under 16 years of age**—The principal Act is hereby amended by inserting, after section 23A, the following section:

15 “23B. No person shall sell any explosive of the third division of the seventh (firework) class to any person who is apparently under 16 years of age.”