

SSAA-LA

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

How Howard's handgun law changes backfired



The former John Howard Government made three moves to toughen gun laws, of which two should be familiar to most firearms owners - national reforms targeting longarms following the 1996 Port Arthur Massacre and handgun law changes following the 2002 Monash University murders. In between, in 2000, the government moved to tighten import controls to reduce what was seen as a growing risk of handguns being diverted to the black market.

What was proposed was for retail gun dealers to be allowed to hold only limited numbers of new handguns for the purposes of testing and demonstration to intending buyers. More would be held in a secure store by Customs and only released to the dealer once a legitimate end user (suitably licensed shooter) had been established. A similar regime already applied to Category C longarms (pump-action or self-loading shotguns and rimfire rifles).

According to Howard Government cabinet documents for 2000, released by the National Archives of Australia under the 20-year rule, the government agreed to a proposal from Justice and Customs Minister Amanda Vanstone to amend Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations which would allow Customs to retain and store handguns until their sale to an end user authorised by a state or territory.

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NZ buyback: Flaws in the new laws





Two years on from New Zealand's Christchurch massacre and the subsequent buyback of some 60,000 banned guns, the country is experiencing a wave of firearm crime that's the highest in a decade, the problems caused not by the country's licensed shooters but by criminal gangs. New Zealand MP Nicole McKee, former secretary and spokeswoman for the Council of Licensed Firearms Owners (COLFO), NZ's counterpart to the SSAA, says the government gave themselves a pat on the back for removing 60,000 guns from the community.

"Wait a minute mate, you took 60,000 guns from licensed owners who were obeying the law, meanwhile the gangs are having a field day. They're out there shooting themselves and other people and it needs to stop," she told *Australian Shooter*. "The government went after the wrong people and the wrong firearms. They spent \$100 million taking firearms off licensed, approved owners from their police-approved secure locations while gangs are out there shooting on a street corner near you."

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Queensland pig-dog use subject of RSPCA criticism during Act review

Fears the RSPCA is using a review of Queensland's Animal Care and Protection Act 2001 (ACPA) to push its agenda against recreational hunting are mounting. According to media reports steel traps, pig dogs,



Field to Fork mailout cooks up political food for thought

The latest instalment in the [Field to Fork](#) cookbook series is in the hands of around 250 Federal MPs and Senators, continuing efforts to share the philosophy of hunting for the table. The mail-out to all representatives, regardless of political alignment and

1080 poison and livestock farming practices are at the centre of the debate as the public is encouraged to give feedback on the proposed changes.

RSPCA Queensland Chief Inspector Daniel Young told the *Queensland Times* the review was welcomed as he believed the legislation was out of date.

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public opinion on firearm ownership or hunting, is intended to be a conversation starter which gives the SSAA a chance to educate and connect with the nation's legislators.

Around 80 per cent of SSAA members identify as safe and ethical hunters who potentially hunt for conservation, recreation or food gathering. Accompanying the mail-out is an explanation on why the SSAA created the cookbook series and has now released *Field to Fork: Second Helpings*.

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