



SSAA National
Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia Inc

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OPEN LETTER

Hon Michael Keenan MP
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

27 July 2015

Dear Minister Keenan,

We write to express our immense displeasure with the process and the decision to “temporarily” ban the importation of the Adler A110 lever-action shotgun.

Despite assurances that the SSAA and other civilian groups would be consulted in regards to firearms legislation and regulations, we have not been approached or consulted on this issue, and we have been told that neither has the importer, NIOA.

The justification for the “temporary” ban being terrorism concerns is illogical, as criminals, gangs and terrorists almost always obtain their firearms by illicit means. The recent Senate Inquiry into gun-related violence found no evidence to support the myth that criminals source firearms from licensed owners. An obvious case in point is the attempted plot on the Holsworthy Army Barracks in 2009, where the perpetrators planned to use “automatic firearms” to commit acts of terror. The Sydney-based terrorist group was also believed to be in the possession of up to five stolen rocket launchers.

Likewise, Man Horan Monis used an illegal and unregistered firearm in the Martin Place incident, and was not licensed.

The Adler firearm in question is a short-range, 12-gauge shotgun that is based on technology more than 100 years old. To our knowledge, there have been no incidences involving lever-actions in criminal or terrorist acts. In fact, this would be seen as a downgrade for criminals and terrorist who appear to use semi or fully automatic firearms in their acts.

Our members have made it quite clear to us that they have taken this decision as an affront and swipe at the licensed shooter who has gone through all the checks and balances to prove they are a fit and proper person. The licensed firearm owner is questioning why the law-abiding shooter is once again under the microscope, not the criminal or terrorist.

The SSAA is engaged in NGO treaties and discussions internationally, and our CEO Tim Bannister has university qualifications in counter-terrorism and has attended counter-terrorism related forums at the United Nations for the SSAA. We question whether any counter-terrorism advisors have actually made the recommendation regarding the ban to the government.

We hope this is not indicative of the way the technical review of the NFA will be conducted as it appears to be a breach of good faith. If it is, then we can assure you that we and the 800,000 licensed shooters and the groups that support them, including the SSAA, will not accept this roughshod treatment lying down.

I trust this letter is received with the goodwill intended, and I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "G. E. Jones." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'G' and a period at the end.

Geoff Jones
SSAA National
President