



# Australian Airsoft Council Australia- National.

## Senate Inquiry

This is a reply to the “The ability of Australian law enforcement authorities to eliminate gun-related violence in the community” Senate Inquiry as it does or would relate to the sport of Airsoft in Australia.

The AAC believe that any change to the current system will make it even more difficult for Airsoft to be legalised as a genuine sport in the two main disciplines that it is enjoyed in many countries all over the world.

All points are replied to as the law currently stands, or, where appropriate, how it would impact legalisation & expansion of the sport in Australia.

- a) the estimated number, distribution and lethality of illegal guns, including both outlawed and stolen guns, in Australia.
  - This can't be measured. Licencing wasn't required at the time that Airsoft taggers were declared as 'firearms'. I am unaware of any state that has allowed ownership of any Airsoft tagger since the National Firearms Agreement. Prior to 1996, they were regarded as 'toys', hence lethality was never an issue.
  
- b) the operation and consequences of the illicit firearms trade, including both outlawed and stolen guns within Australia.
  - This is a Police matter. As a professional club, we endeavour to assist Police with any credible information that we gain. This helps keep the sport 'clean'.
  
- c) the adequacy of current laws and resourcing to enable law enforcement authorities to respond to technological advances in gun technology, including firearms made from parts which have been imported separately or covertly to avoid detection, and firearms made with the use of 3D printers.
  - Current laws are adequate. The inadequacy lies in Customs operations. 3D printing of Airsoft parts has been considered, but with the availability of

replacement parts, it would be uneconomical to manufacture them. 3D printing should pose no threat.

- d) the extent to which the number and types of guns stolen each year in Australia increase the risk posed to the safety of police and the community, including the proportion of gun-related crime involving legal firearms which are illegally held.
- Airsoft taggers are currently classed as illegal. Numbers are unavailable. No threat is posed if used in a crime. If used at all, it is currently classed as a crime & should be punished as such.
- e) the effect banning semi-automatic handguns would have on the number of illegally held firearms in Australia.
- This would completely cripple any chance of holding any International Practical Shooting Confederation, (referred to here-in as IPSC) Air Action events. If Airsoft is legalised in Australia, the economic benefits of holding International events is enormous. This applies to both Air Action & Skirmish.
- f) stricter storage requirements and the use of electronic alarm systems for guns stored in homes.
- The storage laws are currently adequate as they are, even though Airsoft is not included. You will find that the majority of Licenced Firearm Owners take their storage very seriously. If legalised, Airsoft would follow the same storage laws.
- g) the extent to which there exist anomalies in federal, state and territory laws regarding the ownership, sale, storage and transit across state boundaries of legal firearms, and how these laws relate to one another.
- Although currently illegal, the AAC would like to see a relaxation regarding the ownership of Airsoft taggers. Airsoft poses no lethal threat & is regarded as a toy in many countries. If legalised, the AAC would like a National system of sorts that allows transportation across borders for events, cross-checking for ownership (if required), interstate sales through registered dealers.
- h) any related matters.
- Airsoft has been given a raw deal as far as the law is concerned. The Skirmish discipline is played in a similar fashion to paintball which is legal in most States & Territories. Complete deregulation would be ideal. IPSC type events are gaining in popularity & we, "The Lucky Country" are missing out. Overall, the firearms laws in place in Australia only punish the law abiding. Criminals care not for laws & will always find a way to illegally obtain firearms. If anything, laws should be relaxed on licence holders & increased against the criminals. Banning any firearm serves no purpose in reducing crime of any sort.
  - All that this current proposal will achieve is to alienate the legal shooter. As a supporter of Airsoft & a recreational shooter myself, all I see is the potential for

more “Red Tape” & licencing conditions that ultimately will serve no purpose in reducing the availability of “illegal or illicit” firearms.

- A deterrent to gun related crime is the availability of those that are suitably licenced to be able to carry a firearm. This has been shown to be effective in many cases, all over the world. This should be a consideration for a Senate Inquiry.
- As far as Airsoft is concerned, it poses no threat to human life & shouldn't even be included in the “firearms” category. Effectively it is a toy & Australia has become somewhat of a joke in regards to our firearms laws.
- It appears that the Government (especially since 1996) has placed unfair & ridiculous restrictions on firearms for no other reason than to “appear to be achieving something” in the public eye. Serious consideration needs to be given to the honest, law abiding shooter over the criminal in every situation where firearms are concerned.
- The Australian Airsoft Council has support from many International Bodies from all over the world. Some of these include:

Saigon Beach Club- Hong Kong, Varg Pack & G. Company- Malaysia, Thailand Airsoft Shooting Association- Thailand & many others from New Zealand, Greece, Mexico, New Caledonia & Germany. In the last few years, we have received increasing support from United States, United Kingdom & many countries across Europe.

I trust that this reply is useful in assisting you with the Senate Inquiry & also giving an insight as to why Airsoft poses no threat & should be legalised in Australia.

Regards,  
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Australian Airsoft Council.