



SSAA National
Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia Inc

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SSAA-LA
LEGISLATIVE ACTION

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Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

19 October 2016

Dear Committee Members,

The Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia (SSAA) thanks the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee for the opportunity to put forward a submission to the Criminal Code Amendment (Firearms Trafficking) Bill 2016.

The SSAA supports government policies that target the illicit firearms market. The Firearms Trafficking Bill appears to have been crafted with an understanding that the illicit firearms market is where the efforts of our law enforcement agencies should be focused; rather than on the licensed, law-abiding firearms owner who uses firearms for legitimate recreations and services that benefit the wider community.

The SSAA has, and always will, support evidence-based decision-making and backs any measures that combat criminals and their use of illegal firearms. We would like to take this opportunity to reiterate that there is no need to further legislate against licensed firearms owners who are law-abiding members of the public that partake in legitimate sporting and recreational pastimes.

Current legislation affecting legal firearms and private firearms ownership continues to be onerous on the licensed owner, with some legislation based on emotive political and social ideology, rather than credible and scientifically proven evidence. Overburdening the law-abiding shooter detracts from police manpower and resources with no public safety benefit. Therefore, the SSAA encourages the government to continue its focus on the criminal element as outlined in the pre-election *Keep Illegal Guns Off Our Streets and Our Communities Safe* document.

If the Firearms Trafficking Bill deters or aids in stemming the illicit firearms market, the SSAA supports such changes. As a major stakeholder in legitimate shooting activities, the SSAA will continue to work towards ensuring the protection of our 180,000-plus members' freedoms and their interests. The Committee can certainly consider us a resource on this and other firearms-related issues.

Sincerely,

Geoff Jones
SSAA National President

Tim Bannister
SSAA National CEO