

Carl F. LeBon

Senate Enquiry to eliminate gun-related violence

To Whom it May Concern

As a law abiding gun owner after reading the reference publication about The ability of Australian law enforcement authorities in eliminating gun violence within communities, I feel as im sure many others do that some things need to be said that could possibly help the current trend of policing abilities, or lack of ,even though the various police forces are only acting under government direction, in which case the heading for your discussion is in error and should be entitled The Inability of Australian law enforcement to control gun-related violence .

I shall keep this as brief as possible and where possible stay exactly on track but before I start running through the dot pointed discussion points I will say one thing that has always remained in my forethoughts .The governments kneejerk reaction to the events of Port Arthur that caused the removal of thousands of guns from legitimate owners and cost the Australian tax payer millions of dollars did not see one criminal surrender their illegal guns and to that point was sadly an abysmal failure in protecting the people from gun-related crime. Also while on that subject police shooters had clean shots on many occasions but were held from firing due to some political cowardice.

That's my rant over now to the points at hand

A and B

to try and estimate the amount of illegal firearms in Australia is near impossible but by definition outlawed and stolen are the same illegal however stolen firearms make up a very small part of the whole illegal gun trade and as findings in recent years have shown guns are being purchased en mass and shipped by container through our ports and on out air freight and as recent news casts show even being manufactured here by criminal gangs . These are the organizations that need to be targeted and prosecuted.

C

Gun laws as they stand for technological advances are I feel more than adequate, and for the legitimate owner sometimes even stricter than required The advent of 3D printers however requires a new strategy and new detection methods need to be explored but in every aspect are the sae as any illegal firearm and should be treat as such.

D

Due to the lack of reporting on gun thefts I have very little input into the subject but also being a club shooter have heard only of a very small number of gun thefts and most of those are either isolated or often vacant rural properties. As for legal guns involved in crimes this I feel has been addressed adequately by the criteria required to obtain a license and firearm and realistically poses less risk than vehicular crime by licensed drivers in private cars and a car can be a far more lethal weapon than a gun.

E

This statement is ridiculous to say the least as the definition of a semi automatic firearm is one that has placed a fresh round in a position to be fired after the last round has been fired ,this by action makes any revolver a semi automatic ,as once a round has been fired and the trigger released the next round can be fired by squeezing the trigger again.

F

Current storage of firearms is more than adequate and the addition of electronic security will do nothing but add another cost ,a determined thief is far more speedy than a security guard or police car .

G

The anomalies that exist between states is sadly something that we will all have to live with and we have lost the chance to have a unified set of laws as not one state is prepared to relax any of its laws to accommodate one state with more varietal ownership laws and one state will not tighten its laws and remove ownership rights to appease the stricter ownership laws of another state . However there needs to be a better process for people relocating from one state to another to transfer a license and this should be the one uniform step that has to be addressed.

H

This area is what I feel is the most important area of discussion and needs to be acted on immediately and I draw reference to the latest national blitz on illegal firearms titled Operation Unification ,now that in itself is an oxymoron as the only group to feel unified while this blitz was in progress was the criminal groups this was supposed to be a blitz on illegal firearms. So what did the various state police forces do ? They did an audit on every registered firearm owner in the country to check his or her guns .This to me as with many makes no sense because if they are looking for illegal firearms surely they already know where all the legitimate ones are ,shouldn't they be searching the crime gangs , the bikies ,the drug gangs and dealers in illegal guns ,But as long as it seems like they are doing something that makes it right ,Well sorry it doesn't .We the law abiding gun owners and shooters are an easy target ,we have very little political power and only a small voice and an even smaller platform to stand on ,We are not Americans that wish to go hunting turkeys with military weapons nor do we wish to go hunting goats and deer and rabbits (all feral animals ,that taste nice) with machine guns but are Australians and we do wish to carry on with our sport in a manner that does not try to make us feel like we have something to be ashamed of and need to hide in the shadows and be afraid.

I hope that at least something I have presented is of some use to someone and more importantly that someone has paid attention

Yours faithfully

Carl F. LeBon