

SSANZ News November December 2017

www.sportingshooters.nz SSANZ, PO Box 275, Whangarei 0140



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ARE WE OUR OWN WORST ENEMIES?

There are many issues that impact adversely on our sport from new Arms Act legislation, Police policy changes, local government bylaws, Resource Management Act, Environment Protection Rules, anti gun activists and unbalanced reporting in press and TV.

Organizations such as SSANZ and COLFO as well as the Associations that represent the various shooting disciplines do their best to counter these negative impacts, only to receive criticism from keyboard warriors who complain that not enough is being done and what is done is not publicized enough.

If you want to be informed about what these organizations are doing for you, the information is out there in newsletters, websites and social media, you only have to go and look for it.

If you feel you don't have the confidence or skills to take action yourself the very least you can do is spread the word, by talking to your mates, forwarding our e-mails and sharing our Facebook posts.

If you are among those who think we are not doing enough then put yourself forward to serve on our committee and help to make a difference. SSANZ AGM will be held in Whangarei on 24 February 2018.

SSANZ EFFORTS ON YOUR BEHALF

- Actively contributed to the work of COLFO – see latest COLFO News # 5 2017 for more detail.
- Made Submissions to the Law & order Select Committee Inquiry
- Made submission on the Select Committee recommendations.
- Provided comment to the Minister of Police, who we have also met 3 times, on various issues.
- Met with senior Police staff to convey your concerns on various issues.
- Lobbied Police National HQ over licence & permit delays, safe certification and policy changes.
- Made submission to the EPA on the storage of ammunition.
- Protested to the Minister of Conservation about the Lead shot ban over wetlands.
- Contributed funds to the NZ Licensed Firearms Dealers Trust for legal challenges.
- Provided input to the Guns in Schools Working Group.
- Campaigned for community based volunteer firearms instructors to maintain the licence testing program.
- Actively supported the formation of the Firearms Safety Council of Aotearoa New Zealand.
- Provided support to a number of shooting clubs & facilities.
- Made complaints in relation to biased reporting of shooting incidents.
- Kept you informed through bi-monthly newsletters, our website and facebook posts.

COURT CHALLENGE TO POLICE POLICY

SSANZ is pleased to advise that a legal challenge to a recent change in police policy that saw some MSSAs with a folding or telescopic stock being classed as a pistol is being funded by the NZ Licensed Firearms Dealers Trust, to which we have contributed.

Barrister Nicholas Taylor said "I am filing a challenge to this policy in court this week (18/9) so it shall soon be subjudice (i.e. before the courts for consideration) .

The case name is - New Zealand Hunter Group limited v The Commissioner of Police 2017 ADC " - this case is being fully supported by the NZLFD (New Zealand Licensed Firearms Dealers Trust) of which many of you have contributed). He added "It is also an issue for judicial review/declaratory judgments act matter that I am currently drafting which will be NZLFD Trust v The Commissioner Of Police."

SSANZ congratulates New Zealand Hunter Group Limited for taking this action on behalf of those affected owners of MSSAs with folding or retractable stock.

Mean while police have revised the way MSSAs are to be measured: "To determine overall length of the MSSA the measuring should start from the closed or folded stock position to the end of the flash suppressor, providing the flash suppressor is firmly fixed to the firearm in such a way that a tool is required to remove it."

GOOD NEWS TURNS SOUR

In our last newsletter we congratulated the Auckland Shooting Club on their official opening in July. In August this was all turned on its head when the Auckland City Council revoked their certificate of compliance based on their perception of possible lead contamination from the range. The club is seeking legal advice and SSANZ has offered support to the club as well as writing to the ACC, objecting to their action and to request the scientific evidence upon which their decision was based.

SEPTEMBER ELECTION RESULT

Winston has made his choice and elected to go with Labour + NZ First + Greens to form the government. We anticipate more stringent legislation on firearms to follow. The Greens clear anti firearm policies include full registration, a ban on semi automatics and a five year licence. Labour has no published firearms policy but with Greg O'Conner a known anti firearm activist, we can expect a rough and busy three years ahead.

Whatever the outcome we will all need to be united and prepared to stand up for our sport or hobby to secure its future.

RECORD DETAILS OF YOUR FIREARMS

SSANZ recommends that all owners record details of their firearms, make, model and serial number, so that in the event they are lost or stolen you can provide an accurate description to police; keep a photograph too. There is no requirement to provide these details to police other than when reporting a loss or theft.

NOTICE OF AGM

SSANZ will hold an Annual General Meeting commencing at 2.00 pm on Saturday 24 February 2018 at Forum North, Rust Avenue, Whangarei. Nominations for Office holders should reach the Secretary by 1 February 2018.