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First Amendment

In announcing her first amendment to the Arms Act following the Christchurch terrorist attack Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern told the public that she was removing Military Style Semi Automatics and Assault Rifles from society to make New Zealand safer. What she has steadfastly neglected to tell the public is that she is removing much, much more. By refusing to allow adequate time for consultation the new Act has resulted in many sporting firearms being banned simply through the mechanism of declaring ALL semi auto centre fire rifles as “Prohibited Firearms” and setting new limits on magazine capacities she has captured many more bolt, lever, pump action shotguns and rifles as well as semi auto shotguns. Examples include: BSA Sportsman 15, Winchester Mod 53, 90 & 06, Marlins, and Browning semi autos to name a few. All those gun owners who thought a ban of MSSAs and “assault rifles” would not affect them have had a rude wake up call.

Whether this was Jacinda’s intention or she has been duped by the Police, who drafted the Bill and then analyzed the submissions for the select committee, we will probably never know, what we do know is that the firearm community did its best to point out these unintended (or were they intended) consequences of the Bill in the short time we were given.

If you have not done so already check your firearms and spare magazines, if you have any centre fire semi auto it is now banned, any rifle magazine greater than 10 rounds is banned. Any shotgun magazine that holds more than 5 cartridges is banned. It may be possible to permanently modify magazines to comply with the new limits.

Prohibited firearms are:

- **All semi-automatic firearms** (including semi-automatic shotguns), but:
 - **excluding** rimfire rifles .22 calibre or less as long as they have a magazine (whether detachable or not) that holds 10 rounds or less; and
 - **excluding** semi-automatic shotguns that have a non-detachable, tubular magazine that holds 5 rounds or less.
- **Pump action shotguns** that:
 - Are capable of being used with a detachable magazine; or
 - Have a non-detachable tubular magazine capable of holding more than 5 rounds.

Prohibited magazines are:

- **Shotgun magazines** (whether detachable or not) capable of holding more than 5 rounds.
- **Magazines for other firearms** (excluding pistols) that are:
 - Detachable magazines bigger than 10 rounds that are capable of holding 0.22 calibre or lower rimfire cartridges
 - Detachable magazines bigger than 10 rounds that are capable of being used with a semi-automatic or fully automatic firearm
 - Other magazines, detachable or not, that are capable of holding more than 10 rounds.

If you find yourself in possession of a Prohibited Firearm or magazine you should visit the police website <https://www.police.govt.nz/advice/firearms-and-safety/changes-firearms-law-prohibited-firearms> for more information or phone 0800 311 311.

If you do not have access to the internet and are unclear what to do visit your local Arms Officer.

What next?

Commencing on 13 July in Christchurch and running until September Police have organized 200 collection events around the country where you can hand in your prohibited firearms and magazines, where they will be valued according to a published price list and then destroyed. You will receive a compensation payment to your designated bank account about 10 days later. Alternatively you can hand in to a designated dealer (list to be published in August), ask for them to be collected from your home if you have more than 10 or hand them in at a police station.

Before you rush off to hand in your now “Prohibited Firearms” at the police run “collection events” please consider whether you wish to expose yourself and family to the lenses of the media, gangs or curious public, and perhaps have your mug shot on the News, in the local paper or posted on Facebook, Instagram, etc, or have your car number plate noted down and used to find your home address. You do not need this exposure to the world where you may be portrayed as an evil gun owner and killer of the innocent (animals or people) by animal rights or anti gun protestors. Protect your privacy and security; there are 3 other options for surrendering your banned firearms and still nearly 6 months to take the appropriate action.

If you wish to retain a Prohibited Firearm or Prohibited Magazine as one of the exempt categories of person allowed to do so, you will need to apply for a “P” endorsement to your licence. In addition you will need to nominate a person, who also has applied for a “P” endorsement, to hold the removed “vital parts” at another address. ALL retained prohibited magazines must be clearly and permanently marked with a serial number, this includes magazine for Restricted weapons held by collectors on a C endorsed licence.

Second Amendment

The government had signaled its intention to introduce further amendments to the Arms Act in June or July, this is now deferred until the confiscation program “beds in”. The Minister of Police has, in an attempt to appease the carrion call of Chris Cahill President of the Police Union, already said he will encourage cabinet to require registration of ALL firearms. Other restrictions being considered are banning online sales and requiring all sales to be handled through a dealer. Further prohibitions have already been placed on certain types of ammunition, such as armour piercing and tracer.

As we should all know by now Registration is the first step in the process of confiscation, it has been shown to provide no practical use in solving crime, is generally corrupted with errors, and is costly to implement (in Canada it cost over 2 billion before being scrapped as worthless beurocracy), it does not prevent crime and does not make the public safer. The Police (should) know where all the legally owned guns are – in the homes of licensed firearm owners; so why implement a system of registration that is of no practical use. If a register is leaked or hacked then it provides a shopping list for criminals.

You need to be ready to react to this new Bill, when it is published. Meanwhile talk to your MPs, let them know you are not happy with what the government has done so far to your sport and pastime in reacting to the Christchurch terror attack.