

SSANZ News September October 2019

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Fair and Reasonable Campaign

SSANZ fully supports this campaign led by COLFO, and encourage ALL licensed firearm owners to do so. We see it as our best shot at achieving some positive outcomes for law abiding firearm owners. Go to www.fairandreasonable.co.nz to find out more, donate and subscribe to keep in touch with what is happening.

Those Evil Guns

Deputy Commissioner Mike Clements in a recent TV interview ascribed spiritual meaning to our now Prohibited Firearms, quote " *I can tell you that there are far too many guns that are evil in their nature*" and he knows this because he is a " *very senior police officer with an awful lot of experience*".

We ask are these the same evil guns that are now openly displayed on the streets of New Zealand by his own Police Officers. When Police introduced the M4 Bushmaster (AR15) MSSA rifle in to service they had this to say about them:

"The Remington 7 was introduced in 1993 and is a bolt action styled rifle, so each time a shot is fired, the operator has to take one hand off the rifle to action the bolt. Once the bolt is actioned, the operator has to reposition their hand as well as re-sight the weapon and this could be dangerous in certain situations. This is not the case with the new Bushmaster," says Assistant Commissioner Marshall.

"Another reason for the replacement is the stock length of the Remington Rifle - some smaller-built staff have experienced trouble comfortably holding, aiming and firing.

"It was identified as the most suitable weapon for frontline use for the New Zealand Police because of its reliability, serviceability, operator maintenance, capability and compatibility," says Mr Marshall. (NZ Police website)

Sadly we licensed firearm owners can no longer share in these advantages of a modern firearm, which are ideal for those of small stature, left handed or suffering from some physical impairment. However, take heart you will no longer have evil spirits in your gun safe.

Burglaries

Mr Clements goes on to affirm that "The vast majority of firearms in the hands of criminals are diverted from the legitimate fleet - in other words, they are stolen in burglaries. I'm not blaming gun owners for that - they have security, we have more determined criminals who are prepared to break in... and steal those guns. That's the vast majority of guns that we find in the hands of criminals."

If this is the case, where is the proof, since we know only 8% of stolen firearm are recovered and result in a conviction? In addition police are generally unable to match seized guns to those reported stolen. Why is so much of police resource devoted to taking guns from law abiding citizens in this so called "buyback" when we all know the real problem is criminals with guns. Have the Government and Police got their priorities wrong? The answer to that has to be yes. In fact, Mr Clements statement it is an admission that Police are unable to protect us from criminals.

Misleading the General Public

Following the terrible event in Christchurch on 15 March our Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern told the nation that she would remove MSSAs and Assault rifles from public hands to make New Zealand safer and followed that with the draconian amendment to the Arms Act that we now face. What she, her ministers and police have failed to do is

point out to the general public that they have banned many more types of firearm including antiques and valuable historic guns as well classic sporting guns, simply because she would not allow time for consultation. She has also failed to reveal that the total cost of the buyback will be doubled as a result.

Australian authorities advised the New Zealand government to pay top dollar in compensation to encourage compliance with the buyback, but our government has chosen to mark down the values they were given by their expert advisors, but still claim they are being fair and reasonable in their compensation to affected kiwis. We are now hearing from licensed firearms owners who have been through the surrender process and they are very unhappy with the way they have been treated and even more unhappy at how they have been “beaten down” in the compensation paid.

The Amnesty Clock is Ticking

Here we are, at the time of writing, 3 months after the law change and one month gone already of the 6 month amnesty and still many firearm owners do not fully understand how they are affected. Added to that Police still have to decide how and by whom guns may be modified in order to comply, which dealers will be contracted to collect banned firearms and are still updating their list of compensation values. Many pest control operators are still waiting for endorsements to use semi automatics in order to efficiently undertake their work. It begs the question has the government proceeded in too much haste and can the Police cope with all this additional administrative work and still efficiently carry out their normal duties.

Having banned the use and sale of semi automatics with their Order in Council any sensible government would have taken the time to carefully consider the necessary legislation, and given police time to prepare all aspects of collecting banned firearms. As it is they rushed through poorly considered legislation and lumbered an ill prepared police with making up the rules as they went along. No wonder there is so much resentment and confusion in the firearms community, and every likely hood of poor compliance and strong opposition to the buyback.

It is not hard to understand the governments’ haste. It was all about seizing the moment of public shock and emotion following the attack and allowing Jacinda to make a name for herself on the world stage as a decisive leader, unfortunately for her it has convinced many kiwis that her coalition are not fit to govern.

Second Amendment

The government has now announced its intentions for the second tranche of law changes which it expects to become law by the end of the year. The Bill will include, Registration of ALL firearms, tougher criteria for being granted a licence, a 5 year licence period, ability for police to inspect security, tougher criteria for a dealers licence, licensing of all clubs and all ranges, increased offences and increased fees, and finally it dashes all hope for competition shooters to be granted an exemption to use semi autos.

Further prohibitions have already been placed on certain types of ammunition, such as armour piercing and tracer an amnesty for these expires on 30 September.

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 beaurocracy), it does not prevent crime and does not make the public safer. The Police 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.