



Office of the

**Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and
Minister for Corrective Services**

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Mr Ron Owen
owenguns@spiderweb.com.au

1 William Street Brisbane
PO Box 15195 City East
Queensland 4002 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3035 8300
Facsimile +61 7 3221 0794
Email police@ministerial.qld.gov.au
ABN 65 959 415 158

Dear Mr Owen

Thank you for your email of 8 December 2016 to the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services about planned changes to the National Firearms Agreement (NFA). I have been asked to respond to you on behalf of the Minister, the Honourable Mark Ryan MP, on this occasion.

The Minister appreciates your concerns and recognises that firearms policy is an emotive issue for many in the community.

I can advise that, at the December 9 meeting of the Council of Australian Governments, all States and Territories agreed to reclassify lever action shotguns. At the meeting it was determined that lever action shotguns with a magazine capacity of five and under would be categorised as Category B weapons and those with more than five rounds would be categorised as Category D weapons.

I appreciate that you may not agree with this decision. Notwithstanding, I am advised that once the changes are implemented, the vast majority of weapons licence holders in Queensland will continue to be able purchase lever action shotguns, including the five shot Adler shotgun.

It is important to note that the Federal Government has stated clearly that if all States and Territories do not implement this re-categorisation, then the importation ban on the seven shot Adler shotgun imposed by the Federal Government will remain. If all States and Territories implement the re-categorisation, then the Federal Government will lift the importation ban.

The Minister acknowledges that the vast majority of firearms users in Queensland are responsible and recognises the importance of consultation and listening to the views of the community. As such, the Minister will hold a firearms forum early next year with a broader group of stakeholders, including firearms dealers and recreational and sporting shooters, along with representatives of the agricultural sector.

The Minister will invite forum members to get out and about in their communities to seek views and feedback from interested parties and report back to the forum. With genuine feedback and consultation, the government is best-placed to achieve a balance that meets the needs of law-abiding firearms users and the safety interests of all Queenslanders.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'E' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Chief of Staff