

Nonsensical campaign against Adler must end

A campaign by lone Labor and Greens MPs to ban the Adler A110 five-shot lever-action shotgun in Australia is outrageous, totally unjustified and nonsensical.

Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (Victoria) and its 35,000 members is calling for Labor MP Graham Perrett and Greens MP Nick McKim to end their vendetta against law-abiding firearms owners.

Yesterday, Mr McKim claimed the Adler A110 five-shot shotgun was a "dangerous, rapid-fire weapon, regardless of whether the magazine holds five or seven rounds".

Mr Perrett said in a press release, "The Liberal Government must immediately act to prevent these highpowered and illegal weapons from being imported to Australia. Gun critics have said the Adler 110, which can shoot multiple rounds in rapid succession, is faster and more powerful that other models of firearms."

SSAA (Vic) objects to the assertion that the Adler five-shot shotgun is an "illegal weapon", is "highpowered", "rapid-fire" and "more powerful".

"I want to make it explicitly clear – the Adler five-shot lever-action shotgun is not an illegal firearm," SSAA (Vic) Chief Executive Officer Jack Wegman said. "Importation of the Adler A110 seven-shot shotgun, which was legal under Australian law at the time, was temporarily suspended without justification. This is a different firearm with a magazine capacity of five, to suit current Australian law.

<mark>"To say that the</mark> Adler five-shot shotgun is 'more powerful' is lu<mark>dicrous.</mark> The Adler is a 12-gauge shotgun. It's the most widely used gauge of shotgun in the world.

"The Adler does not use any technology which has not been in existence for 100 years. In fact, the first significant lever-action shotgun in 1860 was fed from a seven-round tubular magazine – just like the Adler A110 seven-shot shotgun."

This firearm is legally available for sale only to people who have been vetted by Victoria Police as being a fit and proper person. Firearms owners must demonstrate a genuine reason to own a firearm, undergo a training course and pass a safety test before police will even consider their application for a licence.

"We are talking about responsible people, who have been deemed responsible by Victoria Police," Mr Wegman said. "If the police believe these people are fit to own a firearm for hunting, target shooting or pest eradication, why should the magazine capacity concern politicians?"

The report of the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Reference Committee into Gun-Related Violence confirms that there is not comprehensive, verifiable, accurate and transparent data on which to base policies related to firearms, firearms ownership and firearms usage.

"This lack of facts and data risks creating a vacuum which easily can be filled by instinct, intuition and prejudice," Mr Wegman said. "I believe that's what Mr Perrett and Mr McKim's campaign is based on. Their call for a ban on the Adler is about as credible as John Howard's statement in 2002 that he hated guns and that 'the only people who should have guns are police, the military and the security industry'."

SSAA (Vic) will continue to promote the facts relating to firearms ownership in Australia and hold accountable anyone who misinforms the public or distorts the truth.

ENDS

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