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Att: Neil Angus

Party Secretary

Victorian Parliamentary Liberal Party

August 23, 2018

### **Re: Justice Legislation – Implementing key firearms changes**

Dear Neil

We write to you collectively with regard to the Justice Legislation (Police and Other Matters) Bill 2018, in particular “Implementing key firearms changes”.

SSAA Victoria, Field & Game Australia and the Australian Deer Association oppose any re-categorisation of lever action shotguns on the basis that there has been no rational, evidence-based justification for the change.

The proposed changes will only punish the law-abiding shooters of Victoria with no public safety benefit.

Lever action shotguns have been in existence for more than 140 years and have never featured in crime statistics. When the original NFA was created in 1996 lever action shotguns were considered and left in the lowest category, Category A.

Moving lever action shotguns (magazine capacity no greater than five rounds) from Category A to Category B will have no practical effect on who can purchase them or how they can be used or stored.

The licensing and storage requirements for Category A and Category B are identical, firearms are placed into the categories based on action/type, not on an arbitrary measure of their level of dangerousness as is implied.

Likewise, the re-categorisation of lever action shotguns (magazine capacity greater than five rounds) from Category A to Category D is nonsensical.

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Even if you were to accept the erroneous proposition that lever action shotguns are inherently more dangerous and need to be further restricted, it is not logical that they would not be placed alongside semi-automatic and pump action shotguns in Category C. Again, this is more about rhetoric than evidence.

The Federal Government has also stated that the NFA is an agreement in principle only and is not binding, therefore it is up to every state to decide whether they want to legislate any of it.

We hope we can tell our members in marginal seats that common sense has prevailed in this matter.

Kind regards

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