



SSAA National
Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia Inc

ABN 95 050 209 688

Adelaide Office
PO Box 2520, Unley SA 5061
Phone: 08 8272 7100 Fax: 08 8272 2945
www.ssaa.org.au

ATTN: Peggy O'Neal
Richmond Football Club
PO BOX 48
RICHMOND VIC 3121

21 April 2016

Dear Ms O'Neal,

The Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia (SSAA) is the peak sports shooting body representing more than 177,000 members and almost one million licensed firearm owners.

I write to express our immense disappointment with the recent decision by the Richmond Football Club to sign a highly emotive petition regarding the National Firearms Agreement (NFA). While we understand your good intentions to support the survivors of the Port Arthur tragedy, you may not be aware that the NFA has had many unintended consequences for the sport of shooting. As you know, there are many regulations in sport. As our sporting equipment includes firearms, this adds a secondary layer of regulation that has severely restricted the competitiveness of Australia as a proud shooting nation.

Furthermore, the NFA has had serious negative implications on almost every aspect of our sport. Australian shooters are significantly disadvantaged as our legitimate pathway to pursue competitive shooting at the highest level is almost impossible to navigate. International competitors are deterred from competing in events here as they can't bring their sporting equipment into the country.

Of course, the SSAA accepts that there should be sensible regulation of firearms as guided by evidence-based research. We must, however, stress that after years of evidence, particularly since the introduction of the NFA in 1996, it is clear that public safety is almost always threatened by the unlicensed person with the unregistered firearm in the rare case where firearms are involved, not by licensed, law-abiding firearm owners.

Many of our members are Richmond fans and have contacted us to air their concerns about your decision to sign the petition. Like all sports, ours brings with it economic, social and environmental benefits. As the peak shooting body representing the sport of shooting, we invite you to contact us for any information on this sensitive issue going forward and to recognise that the NFA has had serious unintended implications for our sport.

We trust that this letter is received in the good faith it is intended.

Yours sincerely,

Geoff Jones
SSAA National President