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**Government  
of South Australia**

Minister for Police,  
Emergency Services and  
Correctional Services

Minister for Recreation,  
Sport and Racing

GPO Box 668  
ADELAIDE SA 5001  
DX 450

T: (08) 8463 6641  
F: (08) 8463 6642

E: [MinisterWingard@sa.gov.au](mailto:MinisterWingard@sa.gov.au)

Hon Corey Wingard MP

Clause 6(4)

Thank you for your correspondence received on 6 August 2019 regarding Airsoft firearms.

After receiving your correspondence, I asked South Australia Police (SAPOL) for advice about this matter.

On 1 July 2017 the new *Firearms Act 2015* and *Firearm Regulations 2017* commenced operation in South Australia. Importantly, the principal and objects of this legislation was to enshrine in law that firearm possession and use is a privilege conditional on the overriding need to ensure public safety.

An Airsoft firearm is a regulated imitation firearm which can be adapted to function as a firearm. Regulation 5 (2) states an Airsoft gun is not a child's toy and therefore, possession of an Airsoft firearm is an offence in South Australia.

I understand that the sport of Airsoft requires the use of an air gun that fire plastic projectiles. However, metallic and ceramic projectiles can also be discharged which present a heightened risk of injury. Airsoft firearms can be modified to increase a projectile's velocity despite having lower velocity than traditional firearms.

There is currently no recognised purpose of use for Airsoft firearms in the *National Firearms Agreement 1996* and *National Handgun Agreement 2002*. Allowing Airsoft tagging in South Australia could be viewed as contrary to both the intent of these national agreements and to the maintenance of a national approach to the regulation and control of firearms.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

**Hon Corey Wingard MP**  
Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services

4 / 9 / 2019



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Hon Corey Wingard MP

Clause 6(1)

Thank you for your correspondence received on 6 August 2019 regarding firearm legislation in South Australia.

From the outset, let me assure you that all South Australians can rest assured they have a Government committed to doing whatever is necessary to protect them from gun violence. I acknowledge this commitment must always be considered without impacting responsible firearm owners.

The Marshall Government is always looking for further ways to protect our community. That said, we understand that at the present time there is no need for immediate change to our gun control laws, which are already very strong.

The current considerations of which I am awaiting advice from South Australia Police (SAPOL) are twofold:

1. As you may be aware, SAPOL are currently undertaking consultation with regards to the Coroner's recommendations handed down in February 2017 following the Coronial Inquest into the death of [REDACTED]. Particularly with regards to penalties for people found guilty of trafficking firearms to minors.
2. SAPOL are addressing the National Council of Australian Governments (COAG) 2016 Agreement on the Re-categorisation of Lever Action Shotguns.

In all, the Marshall Government committed \$52 million in this year's Budget towards reducing crime and increasing security so that South Australians not only feel safe, but are safe.

If you would like to discuss this matter further please do not hesitate to contact my Ministerial Advisor, [REDACTED] on (08) 8463 6641.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

**Hon Corey Wingard MP**  
Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services

4 / 9 / 2019