

4 April 2019

Deputy Clerk

Tara Elmes

Finance and Expenditure Committee

fe@parliament.govt.nz

RURAL WOMEN NEW ZEALAND (INC) SUBMISSION

Arms (Prohibited Firearms, Magazines, and Parts) Amendment Bill

Introduction

Rural Women New Zealand (RWNZ) welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission on the Arms (Prohibited Firearms, Magazines, and Parts) Amendment Bill.

RWNZ is a member of the Firearms Safety Council of Aotearoa New Zealand, Firearms Community Advisory Forum and COLFO.

In order to inform our submission, we surveyed RWNZ Members via Survey Monkey and ran polls on Social Media. We are deeply saddened by the tragic events that took place in Christchurch on Friday, 15 March. 50 members of our community lost their lives and RWNZ believes that change is needed on several levels to stop this happening again.

Specific Comments

1. As of 11am this morning, we have had the best response to any of our surveys in the last 15 months. We created the Arms Amendment Bill 2019 survey on Tuesday morning and advised Members by mid-afternoon via email.
2. Our survey was shared on Facebook and we subsequently created two polls on RWNZ's Twitter and Facebook pages on Tuesday afternoon.

Feedback

3. RWNZ supports the Government's ban on military-style semi-automatics and assault rifles and does not believe semi-automatic firearms have a place on farms.

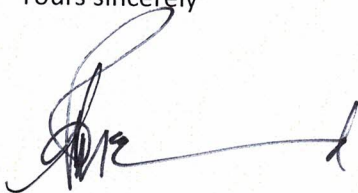
4. RWNZ supports the changes proposed to the classification of firearms as proposed in the Arms Order.
5. RWNZ would like to see an education campaign on the classification of the allowed firearms so that there is a full understanding in the farming sector of which firearms fit the criteria.
6. RWNZ would also like to see more education regarding the use of firearms that are not semi-automatic so that farmers are more comfortable using them for pest control and livestock euthanasia.

About Rural Women New Zealand

7. Rural Women New Zealand (RWNZ) is a not-for-profit, member-based organisation that reaches into all rural communities and has an authoritative voice on rural environment, health, education, technology, business and social issues.
8. RWNZ strives to ensure that all rural residents, workers and families have equitable access to services, inequalities are addressed by Government, and the wellbeing of rural communities is considered from the beginning of all policy and legislative development.
9. RWNZ is affiliated to the Associated Country Women of the World and as such upholds all United Nations, ILO and WHO conventions and outcome statements as they relate to women and rural women in particular.
10. RWNZ would like to draw particular attention to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 16, Peace and Justice Strong Institutions which seeks to ensure fair legislation and safe communities.

We look forward to discussing this further with you in our oral submission.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AMcLeod', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Angela McLeod
Acting Chief Executive
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