1. Concern emerged in 2015 over the proposed importation of a large number of Adler A110 lever action shotguns with high capacity magazines of seven rounds as opposed to the more commonly available three or four round shotguns.
2. In May 2015, the Australian Government announced a review of the National Firearms Agreement (NFA) to ensure it was still appropriate for today’s environment. The classification of lever action shotguns, currently Category A weapons, was included in the NFA review.
3. Under the revised NFA, ratified by all jurisdictions in February 2017, lever action shotguns with a low magazine capacity of five rounds or less move from Category A to Category B, and those with a high magazine capacity of more than five rounds move to Category D.
4. The *Weapons Categories Regulation 1997* categorises weapons in line with the NFA. These categories generally have regard to the potential danger posed by the weapon. The *Weapons Act 1990* provides that the category of weapon a person may lawfully possess is determined by the licence they hold. Most licenced firearms owners hold a general Firearms Licence which permits possession of Category A or B firearms only.
5. The *Weapons Legislation (Lever Action Shotguns) Amendment Regulation 2017* amends the *Weapons Categories Regulation* to reflect the new NFA categorisation of lever action shotguns. It also amends the *Weapons Regulation 2016* to allow existing licensed owners of high capacity lever action shotguns to continue to possess and use these weapons by adding an endorsement to their current licence.
6. A definition of ‘air gun’ is also to be included in the *Weapons Categories Regulation*. This definition will capture weapons, such as ‘Air Bows’ and ‘Airsoft’ firearms. An Air Bow resembles a rifle in size and appearance and fires arrows powered by compressed air. Airsoft is a sport in which opponents are fired at with Airsoft weapons using spherical non-metallic pellets.
7. Cabinet approved that the *Weapons Legislation (Lever Action Shotguns) Amendment Regulation 2017* be recommended to the Governor in Council for approval.
8. *Attachments*
* [*Weapons Legislation (Lever Action Shotguns) Amendment Regulation 2017*](Attachments/Reg.pdf)
* [Explanatory Notes](Attachments/ExNotes.pdf)