



19 February 2018

Dear Owner of Riverman Operator Assisted Firearm

I am writing this letter to you as the owner of a Riverman Operator Assisted Firearm (OAF) bolt action rifle.

Your rifle was imported into Australia and subject to import controls in the *Customs Act 1901* (the Customs Act) and the *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956* (the PI Regulations).

When your rifle was imported, it was classified by the Australian Border Force (ABF) under **Item 2** of Part 2 of Schedule 6 of the PI Regulations.

After the rifle was imported, it was reclassified under **Item 12** of Part 2 of Schedule 6 of the PI Regulations. The decision to reclassify the Riverman OAF under Item 12 was made in consultation with the Australian Federal Police, the Australian Government's forensic firearms experts. The reclassification has been made due to the firearm being substantially the same in appearance as a fully automatic firearm, specifically the Stoner CQB Mod 2 Rifle.

The reclassification of the Riverman OAF under Item 12 of the PI Regulations means that your rifle is a prohibited import.

I am writing to you to seek the return of your rifle to the ABF and to offer you compensation equal to the price you paid for your rifle.

You will receive instructions on how to organise the return of your rifle. You should not use, deal with or dispose of the firearm in the meantime.

Once your rifle is returned to the ABF, you will be sent a seizure notice which will set out the legal process you can follow if you choose to make a claim for the return of your rifle and challenge the decision made by the ABF. If you wish to make a claim for its return, you must do so within 30 days of receipt of the seizure notice.

The Department of Home Affairs and the ABF do not take the decision to reclassify the Riverman OAF and subsequent recovery action lightly and have determined that it is appropriate in the circumstances to offer you compensation for the cost of your rifle.

In order to claim the compensation referred to above, you should provide your name, address, email address and proof of purchase price, including the serial number of your rifle, directly to the Civil Litigation and Compensation Section via:

Post:

Compensation Claims  
Civil Litigation and Compensation Section  
Department of Home Affairs  
PO Box 25  
BELCONNEN ACT 2616

or email:

[compensationclaims@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:compensationclaims@homeaffairs.gov.au)

It is open to you to make a claim for compensation beyond the purchase price paid for your rifle. If you consider you have suffered any direct losses as a result of the original decision to reclassify the rifle, you can apply under the Scheme for Compensation for Detriment caused by Defective Administration (CDDA Scheme). Details of how to make a CDDA Scheme application are available at:

<https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/about/contact/provide-feedback/complaints-complaints-suggestions/claiming-compensation-from-us>. All of these claims will be assessed in accordance with our standard processes based on the information provided.

In order to obtain the compensation referred to above which is equal to the purchase price, you will need to sign a Deed of Release and Indemnity form. That compensation will then be paid after the 30 day claim period expires, unless you make a claim for the return of the rifle. If you make a claim for the return of the rifle, you will be paid compensation equal to the purchase price after the legal proceedings have concluded and if the rifle is not returned to you.

If you have any queries, please contact [dgmfirearmsqld@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:dgmfirearmsqld@homeaffairs.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



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