



# Submission

May 2021

## **The Remington 7615 and Section 26B (4), WA Firearms Regulations 1974.**



## Executive Summary

The Shooting Industry Foundation of Australia (SIFA) requests that the WA Police Minister address an artificial barrier to trade arising from an anomaly in the WA Firearms Regulations 1974.

The Remington 7615 pump-action rifle has been tabled in Section 26B (4), making it prohibited from ownership and use in Western Australia. This addition was done on 12 Jan 2007, and despite our best efforts and communication with WA Police Licensing Enforcement Division, we are unable to ascertain with any degree of certainty the reasons why this particular firearm was tabled in this section.

The Remington 7615 is a .223 / 5.56 X 45mm calibre pump-action rifle that is commercially available for purchase and use by appropriately licensed persons in all jurisdictions across Australia as a Category B firearm, except for Western Australia.

This paper looks to examine the current legal firearms market in WA and seeks to highlight that despite whatever the historical reasons were for adding the Remington 7615 to Section 26B (4), that there is no current justification to continue having it scheduled in such a manner.

Various examples supporting the case to remove the Remington 7615 from 26B (4) are highlighted in this document; however, none are more evidentiary than the availability of the Remington 7600. The Remington 7600 is practically identical in appearance to the Remington 7615 and is of the same action (being a pump-action rifle), it is also chambered in a larger centrefire calibre (.308 Win). Our research shows us that over 10,000 Remington 7600's have been directly imported and sold in Western Australia.

This fact alone emphasises the frivolity of the Remington 7615 being tabled in 26B (4), and highlights the question; why can licensed shooters in WA possess a Remington 7600 chambered in .308 Winchester, but not a Remington 7615 chambered in .223 Remington?

When you combine the availability of the Remington 7600 with all the other legally obtainable pump-action and straight-pull firearms in WA that are of a similar calibre, operation and appearance to the Remington 7615, the question as to why this firearm is tabled in Section 26b (4) is further amplified.

SIFA is of the opinion that this report clearly demonstrates that based on the current market of available firearms in WA that the Remington 7615 adds no additional risk to public safety and as such, moves should be made to remove it from Section 26B (4) of the WA Firearms Regulations 1974.

## The Remington 7615



	Remington model 7615 rifle	Remington model 7615 Ranch carbine	Remington model 7615 Patrol carbine
<b>Type / action</b>	manually operated, pump action rifle		
<b>Calibre(s)</b>	.223 Remington / 5.56 × 45		
<b>Weight unloaded</b>	3.23 kg / 7.12 lbs	3.18 kg / 7lbs	3.12 kg / 6.9 lbs
<b>Length</b>	1067 mm / 42"	978 mm / 38.5"	927 mm / 36.5"
<b>Barrel length</b>	559 mm / 22"	470 mm / 18.5"	420 mm / 16.5"
<b>Magazine capacity</b>	10 Rounds		

- The Remington model 7615 rifle uses a manually operated sliding forend ('pump-action') to operate its action.
- It is a rifle chambered in .223 Remington / 5.56 X 45mm calibre, that is commonly used by both competitive shooters and hunters.
- Ammunition is feed via a detachable box magazine with a capacity of 10 rounds.
- The Remington 7615 can possess standard sights, with both rear (adjustable) and front sight blades mounted on the barrel, and / or have the top of the receiver drilled and tapped for installation of various telescopic sight mounts.
- The Remington 7615 is legally permitted for ownership as a Category B firearm in all jurisdictions in Australia except for Western Australia.

**Section 26B (4) WA Firearms Regulations 1974<sup>1</sup>**

**Section 26B** refers to "Certain licences, permits and approvals not to be issued, granted or given".

**Subregulation (2)** "A licence, permit or approval relating to a firearm cannot be issued, granted or given if,

**(c)** "the firearm is specified in the Table to subregulation (4)".

**Subregulation (4)** "The following firearms are specified for the purpose of subregulation (2)(c)"

The firearms specified in the table referenced in subregulation (4) are as follows:

Armi Jager model AP 15 semiautomatic rifle	.22 calibre	
Armi Jager model AP 75 semiautomatic rifle	.22 calibre	
Josef G: LandmannPretz model JGL — Automat 65 semiautomatic rifle	.22 calibre	
Squibman Model 16 semiautomatic rifle	.22 calibre	
Vektor make, H 5 model, pump-action rifle	.223 calibre	
Cugir pump-action (Romanian make) rifle	7.62 mm calibre	
Remington 7615	.223	

<sup>1</sup>Pg36. [https://www.legislation.wa.gov.au/legislation/prod/filestore.nsf/FileURL/mrdoc\\_43588.pdf/\\$FILE/Firearms%20Regulations%201974%20-%20%5B09-k0-00%5D.pdf?OpenElement](https://www.legislation.wa.gov.au/legislation/prod/filestore.nsf/FileURL/mrdoc_43588.pdf/$FILE/Firearms%20Regulations%201974%20-%20%5B09-k0-00%5D.pdf?OpenElement)

#### Reasons supporting the removal of the Remington 7615 from 26B (4).

- The Remington 7615 meets the requirements of a Category B firearm as defined in the National Firearms Agreement (NFA)<sup>2</sup>, being a “Single shot, double barrel and repeating centrefire rifles”.
- The Remington 7615 meets the requirements of Category B, in sub-category B2.3. in the WA Firearms Regulations 1974<sup>3</sup>, being a ‘repeating centre fire rifle’.
- The Remington 7615 is classified as a Category B firearm in every jurisdiction in Australia except for WA, where it is widely owned and used for competitive shooting and hunting purposes. Given a cornerstone of the NFA calls for ‘national consistency’ in our gun laws, WA’s stance on the categorisation of this firearm is clearly out of step with all other jurisdictions.
- In visualizing the table referenced in Section 26B (4), it becomes apparent that the intention of this Section is to prevent firearms of ‘military appearance’ from being acquired and used in WA. The Remington 7615 is not a firearm of military appearance and was never ‘designed or adapted for military purposes’.
- The Remington 7615 is practically identical to the Remington 7600 which is perfectly legal to own and use in WA. The Remington 7600 is chambered in a larger calibre (.308 Win) and our research has found that over 10,000 of these rifles have been directly imported and sold in WA. Given the Remington 7615 is a smaller calibre rifle it could be reasonably argued that it is of less risk to public safety than the Remington 7600.



- Given the commercial availability of countless firearms in WA that are almost identical in action and appearance to the Remington 7615, prohibiting this rifle under Section 26B (4) provides other vendors, importers and wholesalers a significant and unfair commercial advantage over those involved with the Remington 7615.
- The Remington 7615 is of no added risk to public safety than any other pump-action or straight-pull action rifle currently available to legally own and use WA. ‘Appendix A’ details common pump-action and straight-pull action firearms, many of which bear similar appearance to the Remington 7615 (these lists are not exhaustive). It is important to note that a ‘straight-pull’ action firearm operates in a similar manner as a ‘pump action’, with the only difference being rather than having a moveable forend, they possess a manually operated bolt on the side of the receiver that must be cycled backwards, and then forwards to reload the firearm.

<sup>2</sup>Pg6. <https://www.abf.gov.au/prohibited-goods-subsite/files/2017-national-firearms-agreement.pdf>

<sup>3</sup>Pg104. [https://www.legislation.wa.gov.au/legislation/prod/filestore.nsf/FileURL/mrdoc\\_43588.pdf/\\$FILE/Firearms%20Regulations%201974%20-%20%5B09-k0-00%5D.pdf?OpenElement](https://www.legislation.wa.gov.au/legislation/prod/filestore.nsf/FileURL/mrdoc_43588.pdf/$FILE/Firearms%20Regulations%201974%20-%20%5B09-k0-00%5D.pdf?OpenElement)

## **Conclusion**

SIFA is committed to ensuring that public safety is upheld in all aspects of firearms regulation in Australia. We are not looking to 'water down' firearms laws, rather we are looking to address irregularities in regulation that affect the commercial success of the Australian firearms industry.

The Remington 7615 is a popular sporting firearm that could be utilised for the purposes of competitive shooting and hunting by appropriately licensed individuals in WA. Removing its listing in Section 26B (4) would be a common-sense decision that would restore commercial fairness to an importer/wholesaler, who has been unfairly impacted by having their product scheduled as prohibited, when many other similar products are readily available.

SIFA is unable to conclude why the Remington 7615 was included in this section of the WA Firearms Regulations, and based on similar firearms that are currently widely available in WA, there is no logical justification for this firearm to remain in this schedule. Again, we must stress that this change would be of no consequence to public safety.

SIFA is happy to work and consult with the WA Government and WA Police Minister to seek a remedy for this anomaly and we look forward to a positive outcome.

## Appendix A

### WA Legal Pump-Action Firearms

Remington 7600	.308 Win	
Browning BPR 22	.22 LR	
Colt Lightening	.22 LR / .357 Magnum / .45 LC	
Winchester Model 62	.22 LR	
Winchester Model 1890	.22 LR	
Browning Trombone	.22 LR	
Savage 1906	.22 LR	
BSA Pump Action	.22 LR	

## WA Legal Straight-Pull Firearms

Blaser R92	.223 / 6mm Norma BR / 6.5x55mm / .308 Win / .300 Win Mag	
Browning T-Bolt	.17HMR / 22 LR / .22 Mag	
ISSC	.17HMR / 22 LR / .22 Mag	
Dickenson T1000	12Ga	
Pardus BA12	12Ga	