



Senator the Hon Helen Coonan

Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts
Deputy Leader of the Government in the Senate

Media Release

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Australia Post decision welcomed

The Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts, Senator Helen Coonan, today welcomed Australia Post's decision to lift its ban on the carriage of firearms and firearm parts in international mail.

"I am pleased to see that Australia Post has reconsidered the matter, and that an appropriate balance has been found," Senator Coonan said.

Australia Post originally imposed the ban because of concerns that parcels containing firearms were causing delays in the flow of international mail.

There were also some concerns regarding inconsistent state and territory legislation about transporting firearms and firearm parts in the mail.

Australia Post has reconsidered its decision following receipt of further legal advice.

"This decision recognises both the needs of legitimate firearms users and the operational requirements of Australia Post," Senator Coonan said.

All incoming international mail is routinely screened by the Australian Customs Service (Customs) and the Australian Quarantine Inspection Service. Customs has strict regulations in place regarding the types of firearms and firearm parts which may be imported.

Senator Coonan is now assisting Senator Ellison, Minister for Justice and Customs, to pursue consistent state and territory firearms legislation through the Ministerial Council for Police and Emergency Management—Police.

"I am now seeking a longer term solution through uniform legislation that will ensure the security of mail meets operational requirements for Australia Post," Senator Coonan said.

For more information about the Australia Post decision visit www.auspost.com.au or visit www.customs.gov.au for importing regulations.

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