



## QUEENSLAND CLAY TARGET ASSOCIATION INC

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14<sup>th</sup> July 2016

Mr. Damien Marangon  
Chief Executive Officer  
Shooting Australia  
PO Box 1108  
Padadena SA 5042

Dear Damien,

Thank you for your correspondence dated 24<sup>th</sup> June and received 29<sup>th</sup> June 2016.

Firstly we would ask you to explain the 'significant number of opportunities, initiatives, collaborations and discussions that the ACTA are not part of' to which you refer in your letter. We have not previously been made aware of any 'disengagement' from Shooting Australia on behalf of the ACTA so therefore ask that you provide specific examples of these occurrences in order to gain an understanding or to be able to comment further.

We would also imagine that if there were any areas of concern, either with the ACTA president or within the ACTA as a whole, as CEO of Shooting Australia your point of contact in the first instance would be the CEO of the ACTA, Mr Tony Turner. Again, the QCTA has not been made aware of any issues relating to dissatisfaction with the ACTA or the Executive. We have not previously been directly contacted by Shooting Australia and question whether this approach is in the spirit of good ongoing relations with your member body, and why such a change to procedure did not come through our National association.

We wish to point out that the ACTA president Mr Rob Nugent has the full support of the QCTA Management and State Council, Queensland clubs and members. He is professional, accessible, open with his communications and generous with any information that may further our association and our sport. He has extensive experience of all aspects of the clay target shooting sports from grassroots through to international level. Most importantly the disciplines under the ACTA's administration are experiencing growth across the board in our state. We reiterate therefore that the suggestion that there is 'disengagement' attributed to Rob Nugent's leadership, or any reason to believe that the ACTA is not operating under sound governance practises, needs to be clarified.

While both associations have very specific areas of responsibility within our sport they are, and under the current arrangement should be, inextricably linked. For example, in our state we are currently disadvantaged by restricted access to necessary facilities due to our primary ISSF venue protesting the current selection policy of Shooting Australia by electing not to host Australia Cups or other endorsed events on their grounds, as I'm sure you are aware. This has created a participation problem stemming from an elite level decision.

Anyone in the shooting fraternity cannot help but be aware of the constant negative press of late largely due to appeals over Olympic selection, the constant and ongoing barrage of criticism and interchange taking place on social media, and the poor opinion and dissatisfaction aimed at Shooting Australia by shooters in general. This unfortunate perception of the Olympic disciplines and your organisation is harming our sport and if you are prepared to open communications to the state associations we would be more than happy to be involved in discussions to remedy these issues.

These are the types of very real problems that the QCTA feels need to be urgently addressed and that Shooting Australia should be concerned about, rather than perceived criticisms of our National president or his leadership. Such problems have not been brought about by any action undertaken by Rob Nugent, but he will surely have to be involved in contributing to their solution.

It is therefore vital that both associations work together, respect each other's input and have the freedom to operate as individual organisations to further the interests and image of our sport. Where organisations may not agree on every issue, it is surely important that each follows the protocols in place that have been agreed upon and works together for a better and more positive understanding of our sport.

We would appreciate it if you send the information as requested in the first paragraph as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Muirson', written in a cursive style.

Brian Muirson  
President  
Queensland Clay Target Association Inc.