



SSAAWA

Sporting Shooters Association of Western Australia

ABN: 75 230 214 376

GPO Box D154 Perth WA 6000 | Tel: 9497 7919 | www.ssaawa.org.au

MEDIA RELEASE

22nd March 2022

SPORTING SHOOTERS UNFAIRLY TARGETED BY PROPOSED GUN REFORM

Western Australia's sporting shooting community is outraged by the State Government's announcement of proposed gun ownership reforms, which is unfairly aimed at law-abiding recreational and conservation shooters.

Sporting Shooters Association of Australia WA (SSAA WA) President Paul Fitzgerald says the WA State Government has blindsided responsible gun owners and put their safety and their families at risk by revealing where registered gun owners live.

"Recreational shooters are sportspeople and conservationists who are passionate about firearm safety and the responsibility that comes with owning a licensed firearm, and we are avid campaigners against gun violence," Mr Fitzgerald said.

"We have made every attempt to consult with the State Government and had several meetings with Minister Papalia in the hope that any changes to firearm legislation would actually help to prevent crime, and still maintain sporting and recreational shooting in Western Australia.

"Instead of meaningful engagement with our members, responsible gun owners have been unfairly targeted, and their safety has been compromised by releasing data which can easily identify where our members live," he said.

Mr Fitzgerald said that there is no evidence that links licensed gun owners, or the numbers of firearms held by each individual licensed firearm owner with an increase in crime.

"SSAA WA's number one priority is to educate and promote the safe use of firearms for people participating in recreational shooting and hunting, whilst ensuring all safeguards are in place to protect the wider community.

"The recreational and sporting shooting community in Western Australia undertakes the ownership, use and safe storage of all firearms in accordance with the law.

"We have a strong history and culture of responsible and common-sense gun ownership for the purpose of sport, hunting and conservation," he said.

"We do not want anyone to own a gun just for the sake of it, we want our members to continue to be able to participate in ballistic sports such as target and skeet shooting which are sports at the Olympic and Commonwealth games," Mr Fitzgerald said.



ABN: 75 230 214 376

SSAAWA

Sporting Shooters Association of Western Australia

GPO Box D154 Perth WA 6000 | Tel: 9497 7919 | www.ssaawa.org.au

ABOUT SSAAWA

Sporting Shooters Association of Australia WA comprises 70 clubs and more than 12,000 members from all walks of life. We are passionate about promoting safety for our members to enjoy the range of shooting sports including target shooting – rifles, shotguns and pistols; hunting; preservation of historical firearms – collecting, conservation and wildlife management.

SSAA WA plays an important role in educating people in the skills of hunting, shooting and the safe handling of firearms; providing hunting and conservation opportunities for our members; encouraging all hunters to abide by a strict code of ethics; working for a better understanding between landholders and hunters; actively and assisting appropriate authorities in pest management programs.

MEDIA CONTACT

Simon Bailey

0400248880

simon@counselcomms.com.au