



SSAAWA

Sporting Shooters Association of Western Australia

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MEDIA RELEASE

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BALLISTIC SPORT BACKS COMMUNITY FIREARM SAFEGUARDS

As Western Australia's peak ballistic body, the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia WA (SSAAWA) is undertaking a review of the proposed *Firearms Amendment Bill 2021* on behalf of the recreational shooting community.

SSAAWA President Paul Fitzgerald said the ballistic sporting community supports all reasonable measures to prevent gun-related violence by preventing criminals getting their hands on firearms.

"The SSAA WA's number one priority is safety for all recreational and conservation shooting activities, and this is achieved through our efforts to promote education, discipline and compliance across 70 clubs and more than 12,000 members.

"As WA's peak body, SSAAWA collaborates with police and government for the benefit of our members and the recreational shooting community, and we want to make sure that the proposed legislation does what it is designed to do and does not impede our sport," Mr Fitzgerald said.

Mr Fitzgerald said the SSAAWA has a wealth of knowledge and experience which is an asset for our lawmakers and regulators.

"We want to make it clear that our review is focused solely on ensuring that our members can continue to safely participate in ballistics sports, without fear of fines, prosecution or jail time and those punishments are reserved for criminals.

"While we agree with the intent of the proposed amendment, we are seeking a comprehensive legal review on some of the nuances of the proposed legislation including repairing firearms and other material preparations which are part of our sporting practices," Mr Fitzgerald said.

The Sporting Shooters Association of Australia Western Australia will provide its review findings to the State Government, State Opposition and WA Police in early 2022.

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.

SSAAWA 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.

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