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WA's firearm owners reject Government's War on the Weekend with off-target Firearms Act rewrite

Legitimate and licensed firearm owners in Western Australia are condemning plans by the out of touch WA Labor Government, and their Police Minister, to introduce more bans restricting hundreds of thousands of West Aussies, who enjoy their weekend outdoor activities and recreational pastimes.

Over 90,000 licensed firearm owners are in the sights of the WA Labor Government as they prepare to table a new Firearms Act following half-hearted attempts to consult with the community.

A total gun buyback is planned to be announced at the introduction of the draft legislation, and launched simultaneously to put licensed firearm owners in a stranglehold, long before WA Parliament can interrogate the draft laws.

First the demersal fishing bans, then climbing the landmark Gloucester Tree in the South West, and now we will see proposed laws that tremendously restrict target shooting and recreational hunting. The WA Government's War on the Weekend wages on.

The WA Firearms Community Alliance (WAFCA) is behind a media campaign launched today tearing down efforts by the WA Government to brand law-abiding firearm owners as the root cause of firearms crime in the community.

WAFCA Spokesperson Paul Fitzgerald said the much-hyped rewrite of the WA Firearms Act will see a total disregard for the accepted pillars of genuine reason for competition and sport shooting in Australia under the National Firearms Agreement.

"The Police Minister's cheap throwaway quip telling firearm users to 'get another hobby' is utterly disrespectful," he said.

"Not one of the proposals in the Firearms Act Consultation Paper, which was released in November last year, provides any evidence of how their legislation will lead to an improvement in public safety as they completely fail to address the real issues of illegal guns and firearm crime."

WAFCA, which was formed to represent WA's ballistic and sports shooting organisations, including athletes seeking Olympic and World Championships Team selection, farmers, recreational firearm users and key stakeholders from the WA firearms

industry, has been largely ignored with its commonsense recommendations to the WA Labor Government.

Mr Fitzgerald said the WA Government has led a two-year smear campaign against WA citizens who participate in target shooting and recreational hunting.

“The Government’s consultation paper confirmed a number of restrictions that will only impact people who respect licensing requirements and the law,” he said.

“Criminals using illegal firearms are the main cause of concern for all West Australians, however the WA Labor Government appears only to be interested in a sustaining a popularity campaign that creates fear and untruths about legal firearm owners.

“The WA Government must prioritise funding and resources for WA Police to track down and eliminate criminal behaviour with respect to illegal firearm use and severely deal with those people that threaten the safety of everyone in our community.”

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The WA Firearms Community Alliance (WAFCA) represents and speaks on behalf of the largest cohort of the 90,000 licenced firearm owning community in WA and collectively represents all recognised WA ballistic sporting organisations. WAFCA advocates for the ability of all law-abiding firearm owners and the wider industry to continue their recreation and sport while balancing the need for the protection of public safety against the illegal use of firearms by the criminal element in society.