



SSAAWA

Sporting Shooters Association of Western Australia
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Hon Paul Papalia CSC MLA
Minister for Police
10th Floor Dumas House
2 Havelock Street
WEST PERTH WA 6005

17 February 2023

Dear Minister Papalia,

FIREARM BUYBACK VALUATION POLICY

Law-abiding licensed firearm owners assessed to be a fit and proper person and who have qualified a genuine need for ownership by Western Australian Police under the act, are being impacted by the newly announced firearms ban and buyback.

These people are an example of some of the most dutiful citizens when it comes to following the letter of the law and firearms they lawfully hold have inexplicably been identified as a risk to public and WA Police safety.

The owners of these firearms have invested significant amounts of time and money into their sport, recreational pastime and tools of trade for pest control with the understanding that if they act lawfully, they can carry out their activities, not dissimilar to people altering cars or sporting equipment fit for purpose.

These firearms and ammunition are often worth thousands, if not tens of thousands of dollars. Often, these firearms are collectors' items and are widely used to conduct pest control of larger animals, such as camels and buffalo in WA.

The ammunition and accessories that accompany these firearms such as custom rifle scopes, laser range finders, spotting scopes, wind meters, and other shooting aids specific to that individual firearm are also incredibly valuable.

Businesses, small and large, have purchased ammunition stock, tooling and machinery to manufacture these calibres and custom build rifles for the WA firearms marketplace and those in other states who are seeking the expertise from WA firearms builders.

The Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia Western Australia (SSAA WA) fundamentally rejects the reasoning the WA Government has asserted for instigating this ban and buyback.

The buyback of the specified firearms "at market value" is of particular concern, with the above points in mind. SSAA WA would advise caution around consulting standard second-hand online resources for valuation. The Association represents the interests of more than 12,000 members in WA and with its partner, the WA Firearms Traders Association (WAFTA), is a significant stakeholder on this issue.

The lack of stakeholder consultation on this issue and other measures being announced in the drafting of the WA Firearms Act is in direct conflict with the fundamentals of how a good government manages relationships with constituents.

We respectfully challenge the firearm ban and buyback and request tangible public safety outcome justification on this course of action.

We are seeking detailed information on the market valuation process, particularly around who will be consulted to ensure accurate and fair compensation.

We look forward to your reply and welcome any opportunity to discuss the points raised further.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Fitzgerald

President

Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia Western Australia (SSAA WA)

CC: CC: Hon. Mark McGowan MLA, WA Police Commissioner Mr Col Blanch