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President: 26th October 2002

David Jones

Secretary: Members,

Robert Boutcher There appears to be some confusion as to what was meant in the Prime Minister's statement on handguns. This release addresses this confusion.

A 'similar events' clause was included in the Prime Minister's statement as a result of negotiations with PA and SSAA. It has the support of Justice Minister Ellison.

Affiliations: It was considered vital we retain the other legitimate disciplines as many of our members participate in these matches.

Australian Shooting Association (ASA)

You must remember the context in which this statement was released. A licensed handgun owner and pistol club member shot dead two people and wounded five others with some of his legally-held handguns. Prime Minister Mr John Howard, on behalf of the citizens of Australia, has asked how this was possible. Any reasonable human being has to ask the same question.

Australian Olympic Committee (AOC)

However, the most important part in this statement is being overlooked: the announcement of the intention to introduce a consultative committee which will involve shooting organisations in the legislative process. The formation of this committee was a direct result of the cooperation of PA and SSAA in negotiations with the Justice Minister. Never before have shooters had such an opportunity available to them. We intend to take full advantage of this offer.

Australian Commonwealth Games Association (ACGA)

Oceania Shooting Federation (OSF)

Through the proposed consultative committee, 'similar events' and some of the other conditions in the Prime Minister's statement can now be discussed, in an informed and cooperative way with the Justice Minister and his department.

Sport Industry Australia (SIA)

We, as responsible members of the Australian community, have a duty to make sure our chosen sport is as safe as we can realistically make it, if we are to be given the opportunity to retain our sport. PA and SSAA have, together, worked with the Justice Minister to ensure that this nation's sporting shooters retain their sport. Members should be assured that the consultative approach is the only one open to us. The government is not open to demands by our membership or that of other shooting organisations, especially with the public and the media call for legislative action to ensure public safety. I firmly believe that any other approach will see an end to our sport.

Unlike the 1996 reaction, an informed and "Working Together" approach is now available to us. This is only the start of the process in handgun reform, what comes out of this now we at least have some input into.

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