



Open letter to shooters in WA

WA Police gun bans. Is your gun next?

AS YOU MAY BE AWARE, Western Australia Police have prohibited (or “reclassified”) eight firearms, putting them beyond the reach of the average shooter, simply because how they look. The laws are known as ‘appearance’ laws that many states now have, which are seeing an increasing number of legal guns (including those we already own) being taken off us.

The guns they have banned are not dangerous. Yet the decisions are being made by bureaucrats who do not have any firearms qualifications or experience, yet they can ban ANY firearm for no reason other than they don’t like the look of it. Your favourite bolt action rifle, shotgun or handgun **IS NOT SAFE**.

The National Shooting Council is fighting these decisions in the Western Australian State Administrative Tribunal (SAT). However there have been two disturbing developments that WA shooters need to know about.

A dangerous precedent

The Western Australia Police is relying on a previous case (*Killen v Commissioner*) in which the SAT ruled it has no power to overturn these decisions. We think that is debatable but the argument was recently upheld in another SAT case heard earlier this month where the applicant, a shooter, **wasn’t even allowed** by the SAT member hearing his application, to argue his case.

The WA Police now have two cases which will make them think they can ban any firearm they want without any worry that the SAT can overrule their decision.

In its own action before a different SAT member, the NSC has been successful in obtaining orders requiring the WA Police to justify its position in writing and giving us an opportunity to respond in full. **This is why the actions we are running will be the most important ones for WA shooters in a long time.**

Waving the white flag

The second development is that the NSC, on two occasions, sought the assistance of the SSAA WA and the WA Firearm Traders Association. However neither organisation has expressed an interest in helping which we think is astonishing given what is at stake.

Support the NSC

Fighting reclassification is the most important fight that shooters have. It is a national problem that is especially acute in WA. That’s why the action we’re taking for shooters in that state is so important.

Don’t sit there and let the police take what they want! Join the NSC at www.nationalshooting.org.au: your support will help us get on with the job of fighting for all shooters – and set a badly needed precedent!

Otherwise your gun will be next!

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read 'Neil Jenkins'.

Neil Jenkins

National Secretary

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