



QUARTER OF A BILLION REASONS TO SHOOT

Victoria's 210,000 licensed shooters contribute nearly a quarter of a billion dollars of direct expenditure into the Victorian economy every year, according to the Combined Firearms Council of Victoria.

CFCV President, Sebastian Ziccone, said that shooters' estimated annual expenditure of over \$230m, was more than the State Government's capital expenditure for the Commonwealth Games.

He said the full impact of what shooters spend could be up to half a billion dollars each year once the full flow-on impact of each dollar spent is taken into account.

Shooters main expenses are on ammunition, travel and accommodation. Most of this is provided by small businesses in regional communities.

"This is significant in both political and economic terms, especially in regional areas. Many regional MP's know this, and may explain why they can't understand why city MP's don't understand the importance of the shooting sports" Mr Ziccone said.

New handgun laws which will require all pistol shooters to attend at least 10 competitions a year, are expected to add even more to the economic impact shooters have.

"Many people will have seen the sticker 'I'm a shooter and I vote'. Perhaps a more relevant saying would be 'I'm a shooter and here's my credit card'".

Mr Ziccone said that the Bracks Government developed recent handgun legislation without a proper understanding of the economic impact the laws could have on the Victorian economy.

"To their credit, they worked through implementing some tricky legislation, after listening to what we said would and would not work.

"There was some consultation, however I still don't think they properly understood the significance of the community they are dealing with. The Federal Government clearly hasn't, and yet benefits from the GST and petrol taxes collected from shooting activities."

Mr Ziccone said the State Government nearly 'accidentally' wiped millions of dollars of activity out of the economy by proposing significant restrictions on the ability of people of people to try out the Olympic pistol shooting sports.

"The Government didn't realise that the proposed law would have effectively banned an Olympic sport and cost hundreds of millions of dollars over the longer term - with no corresponding gain in public benefit," he said.

"The Government must realise that making decisions on firearm policy in a vacuum can come at an enormous political and economic cost."

According to Government estimates, this year's ban on duck season will cost regional Victoria approximately \$30m in lost income.

For more information: Sebastian Ziccone, President CFCV, [edited]

(more to follow)

CFCV Media Release Attachment 1

Case Studies

Note: These case studies are for illustration only and do not imply those named have any association with the CFCV.

Case Study 1: - Dennis

Dennis is an active target shooter who is not competitive at state level but very active in both participation and officiating. He is a CPA. Dennis' estimates on annual expenditure (excluding capital costs) are:

Shooting.

| | |
|--------------------|---------|
| Ammunition - | \$3,000 |
| Travel - | \$3,000 |
| Accessories - | \$500 |
| Accommodation - | \$2100 |
| Food (at venues) - | \$75 |
| Entry fees - | \$600 |
| Club membership - | \$600 |

Officiating.

| | |
|-----------------------|--------|
| Travel - | \$1500 |
| Phone calls - | \$400 |
| Attending World Cup - | \$2500 |

Total = \$14,275 per annum

Case Study 2: - Member of ASA National Squad

The member recently entered the national squad and travels regularly interstate to maintain his status. He hopes to compete at the 2006 Commonwealth Games. His higher food bill is due to his more frequent training during the week.

Shooting.

| | |
|--------------------|--------|
| Ammunition - | \$3500 |
| Travel - | \$6450 |
| Accessories - | \$400 |
| Accommodation - | \$1500 |
| Food (at venues) - | \$2700 |
| Entry fees - | \$1110 |
| Club membership - | \$430 |

Total = \$16,090 per annum

CFCV Media Release Attachment 2

Calculations

The following sets out the basis on which the “almost quarter of a \$B” was calculated.

There are 210,000 shooters' licences issued in Victoria. Each has a licence at an average of \$30 per annum. *Sub total = \$ 6.3m*

Each household having a safe (required by law) used by 2 licence holders (average value = \$300 depreciated over 10 years = \$30 x 100,000)*. *Sub total = \$3 m*

Very regular shooters (often shooting at least twice a week and includes those preparing for national and international level competition): approximately 5,700 who spend approximately \$3000 on ammunition, \$5000 on travel, accommodation & food, \$100 for club membership per year and \$1000 in entry fees. *Sub total = \$ 51.8m*

Regular shooters (shoot once a week): approximately 14,900 who spend approximately \$1,000 on ammunition, \$3,000 on travel, accommodation & food, \$100 for club membership per year and \$500 in entry fees. *Sub total = \$ 68.5m*

Semi-regular shooters (shoot at least once a month - includes target shooters, duck shooters & hunters): approximately 32,000 who spend approximately \$500 on ammunition, \$1,500 on travel, accommodation & food, \$100 for club membership per year and \$50 on entry fees and permits. *Sub total = \$ 68.8m***

Non regular shooters (includes farmers): the remaining 157,400 who spend approximately \$100 on ammunition per year but are unlikely to spend money on accommodation, travel or membership. *Sub total = \$ 15.7m*

Turnover of firearms in Victoria is approximately \$20m (based on best estimate on available information from dealers) *Sub total = \$ 20m*

Total = \$ 234m***

* This is conservative as many shooters are known to each have their own safes.

** This figure includes duck shooting, however in 1998, the Parliamentary Environment & Natural Resources Committee reported that duck shooting alone is worth about \$ 30m per annum to regional Victoria. As the category used above includes target shooters and other hunters, it is probable that the total contribution of this group has been significantly underestimated.

*** Also not included are the multiplier effect of money spent including by employees of gun dealers, the sale of firearm accessories and the sale of second hand equipment.