



Media Release – 13 October 2003 Contact: Sebastian Ziccone – [edited]

BUYBACK CUTS HANDGUN SPORTS “INTO RIBBONS”

Shooters say the handgun buyback, which started in Melbourne this month, is cutting the international handgun sports into ribbons.

Combined Firearms Council of Victoria President, Sebastian Ziccone, said that the future of the international handgun shooting sports is under threat, as clubs close due to restrictive new laws. He said club members are now surrendering handguns at the buyback as clubs become unviable.

"The new laws are sending clubs that specialise in the international shooting sports to the wall. They are cutting the sport into ribbons," he said.

"The laws were supposed to protect the community. Instead, they are causing the community to lose one of the main gateways to international shooting competitions which is at direct odds with the decision made by the Council of Australian Governments."

"It shows just how badly informed the State Government has been on this issue."

Mr Ziccone said he did not believe the Government understood what the new laws meant for the future of Australia's ability to compete at the Olympic and Commonwealth Games.

"I understand that 300 handguns were handed in at the buyback in Horsham, of which about half were not prohibited. They were surrendered by shooters who are otherwise engaged in legitimate competitions, leaving their sport because their clubs are no longer viable. A properly constituted firearms consultative committee could have avoided this," he said.

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