



Media Release: 23 March 2004 Contact: Bill Paterson – 0410 479 174

## Howard's broken promise beats Aussie shooters

A leading shooters' group says Australia's internationally successful pistol shooters have been severely disadvantaged by hand gun laws recently introduced by Prime Minister Howard.

"Aussie shooters are restricted to using low capacity (10 shot) magazines which puts them at a huge disadvantage to international competitors in time-limited events," said Bill Paterson of the Combined Firearms Council of Victoria.

"As if this is not bad enough they also are forced to use smaller calibres than the international competitors, which under IPSC rules, gives them a further disadvantage"

"Our competitors are now forced to use inferior equipment compared to overseas competitors, making it impossible for them to win."

International competitors wanting to compete in Australia have found that the new laws prevent them using their competition hand guns in Australia, even though they can obviously use them in their own countries and can use them anywhere else in the world to compete.

"What makes the situation even worse is that in recent international events, where the Aussies were soundly beaten, the scores when corrected to make allowance for the Australians equipment handicap, showed that they Aussies would have won the events – keeping them at the top of the sport, world-wide," Mr Paterson said.

---

**Combined Firearms Council of Victoria**

91 Kingsway  
Glen Waverley Vic. 3150

(PO Box 2279 Dandenong, Vic. 3175)  
P: 0425 746 066 E: admin@cfcv.org.au W: cfcv.org.au

***Representing the political interests of 200,000 Victorian shooters***

Mr Paterson said Mr Howard promised that new handgun laws would not affect legitimate international shooting events such as the Olympics, Commonwealth Games and other accredited international disciplines.

Importation laws which came into effect in late 2002 included a ban on handguns with magazines that carry more than 10 rounds, which Mr Paterson said is contrary to advice provided to Mr Howard that international shooting events require more than this.

Other laws also restricted the ability of Australian shooters to use larger calibre handguns which are needed for international competitions.

“Competitors from Sri Lanka, South Africa, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Thailand, New Zealand and the Philippines have been prevented from competing at this year’s International Practical Shooting Confederation’s National Championships over Easter” Mr Paterson said.

“We have written to Prime Minister Howard but have not yet received a response. This is not good form, particularly with a Federal election coming up”.

Australia’s Brodie McIntosh was placed 3rd out of 850 competitors at the last world shoot in South Africa. Mr Paterson doubts this performance can be repeated because of the present arbitrary restrictions forced on Australian competitors.

For more information: Bill Paterson, Vice President, 0410 479 174

---

**Combined Firearms Council of Victoria**

91 Kingsway  
Glen Waverley Vic. 3150

(PO Box 2279 Dandenong, Vic. 3175)  
P: 0425 746 066 E: admin@cfcv.org.au W: cfcv.org.au

***Representing the political interests of 200,000 Victorian shooters***