



SHOOTERS WELCOME LABOR'S HUNTING POLICIES

The Combined Firearms Council of Victoria has welcomed policy announcements made by the ALP earlier today aimed at winning support from shooting and four wheel drive groups.

The policies will provide more opportunities for hunters and four wheel drivers as part of a \$5.2m package over the next four years.

CFCV President, Bill Paterson, said the announcements were important as they recognised the economic and social contributions that activities such as hunting, camping and four-wheel driving make to regional Victoria, and the conservation values of existing programs run by peak bodies.

“We are particularly pleased to see that the Labor party has taken a practical and pragmatic approach in the face of what must be fierce opposition from the more extremist political activists who we don't believe are interested in good and balanced outcomes,” he said.

“We estimate that the shooting sports are worth nearly a quarter of a billion dollars per annum, and the policies announced today will provide them with an effective and practical delivery framework.”

Labor's policy will:

- Allow hunting of fallow deer on public land;
- Allow access for hunters to cross grazing leases into hunting and game reserves;
- Allow animals culled under permit to be removed from properties they are shot on and used for personal use;
- Provide new funding of \$400,000 over four years for a firearm safety program to raise firearm awareness training and \$200,000 for a shotgun education program; and
- Continue to establish game management in Victoria. In June the Government announced that \$2 million would be allocated to employ three dedicated game managers to work with hunting groups across the state.

The policy also provides for upgrading of four wheel drive tracks, the development of iconic 4WD routes, a classification system for 4WD tracks from beginner to experienced and provide special access to Four Wheel Drive Victoria volunteers to recognise their contribution to maintaining the system.

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