



## **SHOOTERS WELCOME FIREARMS INITIATIVES IN STATE BUDGET**

Victoria's peak shooting lobby group has welcomed the Bracks Government's state budget.

President of the Combined Firearms Council of Victoria, Mr Bill Paterson, said that the budget confirmed two election commitments which support the safe and responsible use of firearms.

"The ALP promised to provide funding for a firearm safety and awareness program, and also for a shotgun education program, and is delivering on both of them" he said.

"These are significant announcements for shooters and demonstrate a positive approach by the Victorian government to sports with lower profiles."

The Government announced \$400,000 over four years for a firearm safety awareness program to provide education to community groups, local government and shooting organisations on hunting and firearm safety across Victoria. It also announced a similar amount for a shotgun education program, and a \$1m fox and wild dog bounty program.

Mr Paterson said that the announcements provided proper recognition of the importance of shooting to Victoria's economy and in sustainable environmental use.

"We have estimated that shooters contribute in excess of a quarter of a billion dollars to the Victorian economy annually – mostly in small towns where the money literally keeps small businesses afloat" he said.

"The Bracks Government is to be congratulated for supporting the shooting sports in this way"