



PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA
Legal and Social Issues Standing Committee – Legislative Council

MEDIA RELEASE

Report presented on firearms prohibition legislation

The Legislative Council’s Legal and Social Issues Committee has today tabled its report on Firearms Prohibition Orders, making five recommendations.

“The Committee’s report on the operation of Firearms Prohibition Orders has identified what the Government got right and what it got wrong in the scheme,” Committee Chair Fiona Patten said.

“The Committee’s subsequent recommendations, if accepted by the Government would improve the scheme through legislative amendments and other measures,” Ms Patten said.

Firearms Prohibition Orders are issued by the police against individuals who police believe pose significant risk to the community. The purpose of these orders is to ensure that members of criminal organisations are not able to possess firearms.

“Disrupting access to illicit firearms by these individuals and groups is without doubt an important element of the role of the police in promoting and upholding public safety,” Ms Patten said.

The Committee found that although Firearms Prohibition Order legislation has been in effect for 18 months, there has been a slow rollout of the scheme to all Victoria Police regions.

The Committee noted that the broad application of public interest under the Firearms Prohibition Order scheme allows law enforcement to flexibly respond to the individual circumstances in each case when deciding to make a Firearms Prohibition Order application. However, the intentionally broad application of the criteria has the potential to invite a broad interpretation of what constitutes public interest.

According to the Committee, this may affect the operation and effectiveness of the scheme in disrupting access to and possession of illicit firearms, especially by organised crime or terrorist groups, and raises the risk that members of the community with little or no criminal involvement could be targeted.

“I hope that the Government takes the Committee’s recommendations on board and moves to amend the legislation to ensure that it is more effective, enforceable and ultimately achieves the goal we all share – to maintain the safety of our community,” Ms Patten said.

The Committee’s report is available from its [website](#).

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