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**Title:**

Statement by the Attorney-General of Australia on Firearms legislation

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**ATTORNEY - GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT**

STATEMENT BY THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL  
OF AUSTRALIA, LIONEL MURPHY, Q.C.  
ON FIREARMS LEGISLATION

I take the view that the laws should be such as to protect the public against indiscriminate and criminal use of firearms but not such as to inhibit the legitimate use for sport and recreation or possession of antiques.

To this end the views have been sought of various interested parties including law enforcement officers, the sporting shooters associations, firearms traders and antique collectors.

Discussions with my officers were not complete at the time of the double dissolution. I am informed the discussions were extremely useful and proceeding satisfactorily.

Contrary to published reports and advertisements there is no Bill for national legislation - Cabinet has made no decision - and in fact received no submission on this subject. No policy to reform the law has been formulated.

Any Federal legislation for comprehensive control can and shall apply only in the A.C.T. and other territories. The States have constitutional responsibility in their own areas.

Any intended legislation would not apply in the areas of the States.

CANBERRA

MAY 9, 1974

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