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MEDIA RELEASE

GREEN LIGHT FOR NATIONAL FIREARMS DATABASE

The Australian Federal Police Association (AFPA) welcomes the news of a federal, state and territory agreement to establish a national firearms database.

AFPA President Alex Caruana said that every police officer and first responder in Australia would welcome the announcement.

“The establishment of a National Firearms Database has been on our agenda since 2019; today, we received the excellent news that it will go ahead.

“Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Attorney-General Mark Dreyfus KC have been instrumental in delivering this vital project, and we look forward to working with them and the Attorney-General’s Department on the next steps.

“We also thank all Premiers and Chief Ministers for supporting this initiative. This decision will positively impact every single police officer and first responder at work in their state or territory,” Mr Caruana said.

The AFPA believes a National Firearms Register will help improve public and officer safety by allowing police officers access to real-time information concerning firearms, ammunition and their owners. The recommendation for a national database was made after the 1996 Port Arthur tragedy.

Mr Caruana clarified that the intent of the National Register wasn’t to take firearms away from licensed shooters but rather to provide police and first responders with critical information that could ultimately end up saving their lives and the lives of community members.

“Once the database is established, police in an operational environment will immediately know if a suspect or offender has a firearm or firearms registered to them. This information will allow police to make decisions regarding public and officer safety almost immediately when dealing with a situation.

“Even more importantly, the database will be nationwide. If the suspect or offender travels interstate, police in that state will immediately be able to access the information without having to wait for a cross-jurisdictional process that could take many hours,” Mr Caruana said.

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