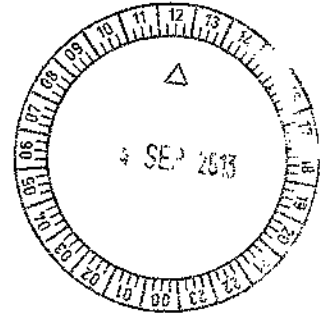


Daiva Belkus-Blair



Monday, 2 September 2013

The Chair  
Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation  
GPO Box A11  
Perth WA 6837

To Whom It May Concern,

I have recently been made aware of the fee increases proposed for 2013/14. I would like to know, how the Western Australian government can justify a 134% increase on fees. Why is it that every other state in Australia pays hilariously lower fees than we do? What has prompted this outrageous decision? I need to know because for the life of me, I cannot figure it out.

When I see increases like this, I can only assume one thing. Perhaps instead of punishing those doing the wrong thing you feel if you punish enough of those doing the right thing, legal ownership of firearms will drop. That we will all decide it's just far too expensive to continue with the sport we love. Aren't those living in Western Australia struggling enough? We already pay more for everything, why not take this too.

When I decided to give sports shooting a go, I had my reservations about the culture I might encounter. I was pleasantly surprised. I met the most amazing people, found a wonderful little club in Wanneroo and now have an incredibly rewarding pass time. I won my first medal not too long ago. I've never won a medal for anything, ever.

Safety governs the clubs no matter where they are. Before I could even set foot on the range, I had to go through safety meetings, learn and understand the laws of firearm ownership in WA, speak with the range officers...We are doing the right thing. So why are we being treated like we are doing the wrong thing.

I am very disappointed with this increase decision. It's uncalled for and it's just straight out not fair.

I need someone to explain this to me, please.

Regards,

Daiva Belkus-Blair