



# Media release

**The Hon Peter Ryan MP**  
Deputy Premier  
Minister for State Development  
Minister for Regional and Rural Development

**The Hon Damian Drum MLC**  
Minister for Sport and Recreation  
Minister for Veterans' Affairs

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## Coalition Government supports sporting shooters

- **Sporting shooting clubs to share in \$12.48 million fund**
- **Fund will co-invest with clubs to upgrade their facilities and attract more events**
- **Victorian Coalition Government building a better Victoria**

Sporting shooting clubs from around Victoria can upgrade their facilities thanks to a \$12.48 million fund created by the Victorian Coalition Government.

Speaking in Bendigo today, Deputy Premier Peter Ryan and Minister for Sport and Recreation Damian Drum said the *Shooting Sports Facilities Program* would give shooting clubs the opportunity to apply for funding to upgrade their facilities, increasing participation and building the sport.

"Outdoor sports such as shooting are a vital part of the social fabric and these grants will encourage more people to get more active in an environment that promotes safe and responsible firearms ownership," Mr Ryan said.

"This fund will help clubs secure tenure at sites and host high level events across the different shooting disciplines, attracting shooters from across Victoria and beyond. This will bring social and economic benefits to the relevant communities.

"Minor projects will be able to receive up to \$100,000 from the fund, with the government offering \$2 for every \$1 put in by the club itself or another contributor, for example a local council, either by contributing direct funding or as in-kind support.

"There will be no cap on funding invested by government into a major project, but the investment will need to be matched dollar-for-dollar by the club or another contributor."

Mr Drum said the *Shooting Sports Facilities Program* would assist shooting clubs and associations to increase participation and help participants from grass roots to the elite level.

"The Coalition Government continues to work with local councils, clubs and communities to create a connected, active, healthy and safe Victoria through sport," Mr Drum said.

"Victorians have a proud history of producing Commonwealth, Olympic and Paralympic Games medallists in shooting sports, with Russell and Lauryn Mark, Adam Vella and Peter Tait all flying the flag.

"More than 20,000 Victorians participate in competitive shooting events each year, and with local champions like Geoff Grenfell set to do us proud at the Glasgow Commonwealth Games, this number will only increase.

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"We're helping sports including shooting to develop better facilities, host big events and give more people the opportunity to be participants, coaches, and volunteers," Mr Drum said.

Field and Game Australia Chairman Bill Paterson thanked the Coalition Government for its commitment to providing a safe and secure future for Victorian shooters.

"Historically, the sport has missed out on funding and with the continuing influx of new shooters to the sport, clubs will be in a position to apply for funds to secure and upgrade their facilities," Mr Paterson said.

"A report recently released by the Coalition Government showed expenditure by Victorian shooters and hunters has now grown to \$439 million a year, much of it in regional Victoria.

"Expenditure on range improvements is vital to ensuring shooters can practise and refine their gun handling skills and new shooters can be introduced to the sport in a safe, controlled manner."

An advisory committee, chaired by Mr David Hawker AO, will be established to assess project applications and provide specialist advice on the sport's specific and strategic needs. Details of the program will be finalised following the establishment of the advisory committee.

More information can be found at [www.sport.vic.gov.au](http://www.sport.vic.gov.au)

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