



ACT Government

2003-2004 BUDGET

850 PROHIBITED GUNS TO BE TAKEN OFF CANBERRA STREETS UNDER \$1.25 MILLION BUYBACK

The ACT Government has allocated \$425,000 to an overall \$1.25 million scheme to fund the buyback of prohibited handguns, and remove dangerous weapons from the Canberra community.

“At the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) meeting on December 6 last year, state, federal and territory governments agreed to the prohibition of certain categories of handguns and to a nationwide buyback of those handguns,” Mr Stanhope said.

“These funds provide for that scheme that will operate from 1 July 2003 to 1 January 2004.

“The buyback is to be initially funded from \$15 million remaining from the 1996 firearms buyback funds which are held by the Commonwealth, and then shared on a 2:1 basis between the Commonwealth and the states and territories.

“There are an estimated 850 prohibited guns in Canberra at the moment with a very broad estimate of the average cost of each gun at \$1,500. To remove all those guns, the entire \$1.25 million will be exhausted completely.

“Of course, gun owners who have made significant modifications may require a separate valuation and be compensated accordingly.

“The Australian Federal Police will administer the scheme, and it is hoped that all of Canberra’s 1700 registered gun owners with a prohibited weapon, will take advantage of the scheme.

“My Government intends to build a safe city and safe community and this buyback scheme indicates that we are committed to achieving that goal,” Mr Stanhope concluded.
Statement ends.

Media Release

