

# News Release

## Premier Jay Weatherill Deputy Premier John Rau

Treasurer

Minister for State Development

Minister for the Public Sector

Minister for the Arts

Attorney General

Minister Michael O'Brien

Minister for Police



Thursday, 21 February 2013

### Rewards for clearing illegal weapons off our streets

Rewards of up to \$10,000 will be given for providing information that leads to the seizure of illegal firearms or arrests for serious firearms offences, under a State Government initiative to get illegal weapons off the streets.

Premier Jay Weatherill said the State Government and SAPOL are calling on the community to provide information that identifies the location of illegal firearms, particularly those in the control of criminals.

“We understand there has been considerable concern in the community following a series of incidents involving firearms,” Mr Weatherill said.

“The State Government views this behaviour as abhorrent and is dedicated to taking every measure possible to get these illegal weapons out of the hands of criminals.”

Attorney General John Rau said the State Government had given police extensive legislative tools to help curb both organised crime and gun violence, in addition to a specialised firearms investigation team, which has had great success.

“Now we are asking the community to help play its part in the battle,” Mr Rau said.

The amount of reward paid will be determined on a case-by-case using SAPOL’s existing procedures for rewards for information.

The initiative follows last year’s successful gun amnesty conducted by the State Government and SAPOL, which saw a record number of illegal or unwanted weapons – more than 2700 – handed in to police.

The announcement also comes ahead of new serious firearms offences which come into effect on Monday, 4 March.

Mr Rau said the *Serious Firearms Offences Bill* sends a clear message to the community that the trafficking, supply, unlawful possession and use of illegal firearms will not be tolerated.

Police Minister Michael O'Brien said cracking down on the illegal trade of weapons within South Australia and across states was high on his agenda.

“This isn’t an issue confined to our borders. I believe a nationally-coordinated effort is required and I will be raising it with other State Police Ministers at the Standing Council on Police and Emergency Management later this year,” Mr O'Brien said.

Penalties for possessing an unregistered or illegal firearm are very high — up to \$50,000 or imprisonment for up to 10 years.

Members of the public wanting to provide information can call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000. They can remain anonymous.