

I see that the Federal government is again interfering in state issues. Like Howard did in '96 and '03 I have no doubt that you will force the states to obey with the threat of withholding tax revenue to make them comply.

Firearms in the hands of the law abiding is not and never was the cause of armed/violent crime. The UK has for example banned ALL handguns and yet surprise, surprise, armed crime and gun crime as gone up!

If you want to cut the amount of unlawful firearms in the hands of criminals target customs, the postal service and boarder security especially routes from Indonesia and PNG where a lot of smuggled firearms are being brought in from the Philippines.

Fully automatic firearms, sub machine guns and suppressors are to a greater degree banned from the hands of the public and yet they are frequently located in searches of criminal gangs. But wait, how can that be? If they are banned how can criminals get a hold of them. Because banning firearms from private law abiding citizens is NOT the solution.

State governments have dropped firearm charges for decades in an attempt to make the job of the DPP easier (lets call them plea bargains). This has created 2 situations. One is the fudge the public records after Howard's bans into making it look like they worked. Second it sent a message to criminals, hey carry a gun as you'll get off it anyway.

If you want to stop armed crime, stop concurrent sentencing, make all sentences consecutive. Stop the DPP trading of gun charges for making their jobs easier.

Criminals don't care about laws and punishing the law abiding in order to punish the lawless will achieve nothing... Unless like Howard this is a wider reaching agenda!

While here in Qld weapons offenses are "simple" and as such carry little or no punishment. Change the crimes acts to say if you use any weapon in the commission of the unlawful act then those weapons charges become criminal in nature and double any sentence handed down for the crime.

Banning the lawful possession of guns is equivalent to banning cars to stop the ever increasing road toll, or making everyone drive 4 cylinder cars to stop people speeding. Actually that's not a bad idea. Punish every driver for the sins of the few.

Carl