

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday 11 April 2018



Weapon of democracy takes up residence at MoAD

Former Deputy Prime Minister Tim Fischer's Enfield 303 rifle will be on show at the Museum of Australian Democracy (MoAD) as one of the key items at the upcoming exhibition *Democracy: are you in?*

On Thursday, Mr Fischer will formally hand the rifle over to MoAD in King's Hall at Old Parliament House.

The rifle was one of the first firearms to be handed in for registration under the National Firearms Agreement. The Agreement was passed under the Howard Government in May of 1996 following the Port Arthur Massacre. Reflecting on the handover Fischer said,

"It was a good example that even the Deputy Prime Minister of the period had to strictly comply with the historic agreement and relevant legislation."

There was strong opposition over the reforms from rural electorates and the Deputy Prime Minister soon found himself in a head to head with his own constituency.

"I salute the thousands of law abiding gun owning Australians who fully complied with the gun laws ... this was a game changer and meant Australia walked away from drifting down the USA pathway of guns and more guns," said Mr Fischer.

The rifle will be one of many items that will be on display at the new *Democracy: are you in?* exhibition set to open on 26 June 2018.

"As a 21st century museum, MoAD is ideally positioned to talk about the relevance of democracy in Australia's past and future. *Democracy: are you in?* will feature a selection of objects with significant ties to events in Australia's democratic history. Visitors will be encouraged to do more than simply reflect on this history ... they will be encouraged to identify current issues facing Australia's democracy and how they can advocate for change," says Ms Daryl Karp, Director of MoAD.

Mr Fischer has been an ongoing contributor to MoAD's growing collection. A selection of the ties once worn by the Deputy Prime Minister is currently on display at the Finders Keeper exhibition at the Museum.

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NOTES TO THE EDITOR

Media are invited to the handover for the Hon Tim Fischer's rifle to MoAD at **8.15am** on Thursday 12 April 2018. The event will take place in King's Hall at Old Parliament House.

VISUALS

- Handover of the rifle to MoAD

INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES

- Hon Tim Fischer, Former Deputy Prime Minister
- Ms Daryl Karp, Director of MoAD

Ends

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