



## What Is The Mood In Your Area?

Posted by [aeldric](#) on March 15, 2009 - 8:17am in [The Oil Drum: Australia/New Zealand](#)

Topic: [Sociology/Psychology](#)

I was looking for news stories and came across this: [Guns outnumber people in suburbs.](#)

Now as many of you know, I am a licensed target shooter. I've been a shooter in one form or another all of my life, but my current passion is pistol shooting, which in my opinion, is the most challenging form of shooting - almost pure "zen". But the news that my sport seems to be enjoying a sudden popularity does not fill me with joy. I wonder what has prompted this sudden enthusiasm? I may regret starting a gun-debate in Australia... but I think that the motivations, intentions and outcomes are worth examining.



In Australia, pistol shooting is a very hard sport to get into. You need a fair bit of spare cash, a flawless history, good connections, and plenty of spare time to devote to gaining and maintaining your skills (your permit depends on constantly competing, and it will take about a year of constant participation before you will be allowed to buy your own pistol - which is likely to be a low-powered air pistol or .22). Yet I have seen an influx of new people, even in pistol shooting.... and they are not the people I usually see. I see the determined-looking mother who brings her two young sons to the range and brooks no argument when she tells them that they WILL learn to shoot. Or the tired-looking business-owner who would obviously rather be home with his family.

What are they doing here? Few will give me an answer. The few who do refer guardedly to "the situation at the moment" or some similar concept.

I have said elsewhere that people who are depending on guns for security should sell them and buy a dog. A dog is less expensive, more loving, and won't be locked up in an inaccessible gun-safe when needed most!

I have also said elsewhere that I believe Australia is a safe country, only a high-impact threat such as war or pandemic could change that. Is there something in "the situation at the moment" that could change this situation so much that a gun is a better investment than solar panels?

Is there some reason to believe that we need to become an armed society? That may be fun in arcade games, but I wouldn't want to live it!



Anyway, enough ranting. Over to you guys - let's open a discussion. I have never really heard anyone define what they mean when they talk about "the situation at the moment".

So what is your perception of "the situation at the moment"?

What is the perception amongst the general population of "the situation at the moment"? How does it differ from your view?

Is there some specific threat associated with "the situation" that could change Australia's fundamentally safe, friendly and sensible attitudes?

How?

If "the situation" does justify drastic action, what offers the best return on investment?

What is the "big picture" problem that our government faces? What are the priorities at the government level? [Dmitry Orlov](#) talks about breaking the problem down to basics - food, shelter, transport and security - should they be tackled in that order?

Has there been a change in the mood of Australia's population?



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