



Civil Liberties Australia – WA
PO Box 369 MAYLANDS WA 6931
Email: [secretary \[at\] cla.asn.au](mailto:secretary@cla.asn.au)

The Police Commissioner, WA
East Point, 233 Adelaide Terrace
PERTH WA 6000
Australia

Copy: The Police Minister, WA)
Dumas House, 2 Havelock St
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Australia Day, 26 January 2021

Dear Sir

We congratulate you on securing a conviction in the Claremont serial murders trial.

Flowing from that success, we request that you make a formal apology to those people who were falsely and irresponsibly named by WA Police as “persons of interest” in the decades leading up to the recent arrest and conviction.

We note in particular the extraordinary ill effect such naming had on Mr Peter Weygers and on his career and his life. Whether or not intended, we also note the difficulty his naming created for civil liberties activities and membership, as he was president of the local CL organisation at the time. We leave it to your good intentions to decide whether you think a second apology to civil liberties groups would also be appropriate.

At the same time as making the apology, we recommend you instruct your officers, particularly detectives, that the practice of naming anyone a ‘person of interest’ by WA Police is to cease. We believe that by banning the practice WAPOL should be able to save the State some \$1-2m a year in compensation cases brought by people falsely and wrongly named.

Yours truly

Margaret Howkins
Director, WA

Dr Kristine Klugman
President

PS: Should you think it more appropriate, the apology (or apologies) and the issuing of the new non-naming edict might come from the WA Minister for Police.