



ASJ

AUSTRALIAN SHOOTERS JOURNAL
The political voice of the SSAA

We **CAN** make
a difference



MILLION MILLION

**licensed
gun owners**

VOTES



In this issue

ASJ

The political voice
of the SSAA

Staff CEO Tim Bannister, Editor Kaye Jenkins, Assistant Editor Dave Rose, Art Director Mike Barr, Production Coordinator Judy Ward, Graphic Designer Natalie Kuhlmann, Media Officer Kate Fantinel, Communications Officer Sam Talbot, Advertising Representative Karoline Minicozzi, Administration Debbie Wing.

PO Box 2520, Unley, SA 5061
Phone: 08 8272 7100
Fax: 08 8272 2945
Internet: www.ssaa.org.au
Email: as@ssaa.org.au

Distributed to 178,312 members Australia-wide.

The ASJ is owned and published by the Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia Inc. Opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the policy of this Association.

Contributions: Freelance contributions are welcome. We do, however, recommend that potential authors contact the office prior to story drafting. Color slides and manuscripts may be sent to the address shown above.

No responsibility can be accepted for errors and/or omissions.

No text or photographs within the ASJ may be republished, either electronically or in print, without the express written permission of the SSAA. Copyright 2016.

The *Australian Shooters Journal* is published periodically and is printed by Genii, Brookvale, NSW.

The Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia Inc (SSAA Inc) is subject to the provisions of the National Privacy Act. We collect personal information from members of the Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia in the various states and territories. Should you want a copy of the SSAA Inc Privacy Statement or seek further information please write to PO Box 2520, Unley, SA 5061.

- 3** A message from SSAA National President Geoff Jones
- 4** Liberal Party of Australia statement
- 5** The Nationals statement
- 6** Australian Labor Party statements
- 7** The Australian Greens
- 8** Katter's Australian Party statement
- 9** Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party statement
- 10** Liberal Democratic Party statement
- 11** Australian Motoring Enthusiast Party statement
- 12** Australian Country Party statement
- 13** Family First statement
- 13** Democratic Labour Party statement
- 14** Pauline Hanson's One Nation statement
- 15** Friend or foe?

See back issues of ASJ at ssaa.org.au/asj

Support our friends, prevent our foes from gaining power

A message from SSAA National President Geoff Jones



THE TUMULTUOUS POLITICAL times continue to bring challenges for sporting shooters. In the midst of the first National Firearms Agreement (NFA) review since its introduction, we are now facing an early double-dissolution election where all seats are up for grabs and an appetite for change is in the air.

While SSAA National has had many successes during the past two and a half years by engaging supportive Senators and MPs, achieving a great outcome from the Greens-led Senate Inquiry into gun-related violence and building working relationships with the relevant government Ministers, it is clear that Australian politics is stagnating. The Coalition's push to introduce minimum mandatory sentencing for illicit firearms trafficking has been repeatedly blocked, the captain's call by former Prime Minister Tony Abbott to stop imports of the Adler seven-shot lever-action shotgun was an affront to law-abiding shooters and Freedom of Information (FOI) documents showing public servants' politicising discussions caused concern that consultation with end-users was being overshadowed.

Nevertheless, the SSAA is well placed politically. Our seat on the current Firearms Industry Reference Group and smart approach to lobbying ensures we will remain a key consultative group as we approach our 70th anniversary, whatever the election outcome.

In preparing this *ASJ: 2016 Federal Election Special Edition*, our new SSAA Legislative Action (SSAA-LA) department has invited all the major and key minor parties to submit their views on firearms, hunting and the shooting sports. Our positive relationships with the major parties ensured we received responses from all, where no doubt other fringe firearms groups would have failed.

The statements come first-hand from the parties and candidates, bar the Australian Greens, who did not respond to any of our offers for inclusion. Receiving a total of just 8.6 per cent of the vote in

2013, it is clear the Greens party is becoming irrelevant. With a record number of independents winning seats in 2013, it is also clear that the Australian public is disenfranchised with the tiresome political makeup of old. That means that anything could happen in this year's election where all seats are on the table for the first time since the 1980s.

The SSAA's message is clear: we will support those who support our chosen pastime and embrace evidence-based policy over emotion, while using our media empire to publicly blast those who revert to opportunistic policies that are detrimental to our liberties. Hunting and shooting are among Australia's oldest pastimes and the evidence clearly shows it is the criminal element of society which poses the biggest threat when it comes to the illicit firearms market.

Our democracy gives you the right to choose who you vote for on July 2. The information published herein is a guide for those who want to ensure supporters of our recreation and industry are elected. With 150 electorates, we implore you to research the special circumstances in your area, as there is no one-size-fits-all approach. Unfortunately, we must again ask that you put the Greens last given its continued attack on the licensed firearm community shown by the party's lack of response and statements on the public record.

Finally, the SSAA is not a fringe group which sits idly by when politicians attempt to make negative changes that will severely affect our sport. With at least one million shooters who have the support of family and friends, our political weight cannot be ignored. So make sure your vote counts on July 2 and goes to a party and candidate who will positively represent your interest in the shooting sports for the next crucial three years.



Liberal Party of Australia statement

THE TURNBULL COALITION team is committed to preserving the interests of the legal firearms market and owners including sporting and recreational shooters, while also maintaining a range of measures to control firearms and their criminal misuse.

The Coalition is committed to retaining the Firearms Industry Reference Group of which the SSAA is already a member. This group has been and will continue to be a vital reference in the review of the National Firearms Agreement (NFA). Firearm laws in Australia are based mainly on the resolutions agreed upon by Australian Police Ministers and compiled in this agreement. The Turnbull Government has no plans to change this approach.

Mandatory minimum sentences send a strong message that gun-related crime and violence is a serious threat to the safety of all Australians. The Turnbull Government sought to pass legislation to provide for a mandatory minimum sentence and increased maximum penalties for the offences of trafficking firearms within, into and out of Australia. While this measure did not pass before the end of the Parliamentary term, a re-elected Turnbull Government would reintroduce this legislation. Our attempts to crack down on illicit firearms trafficking have been undermined by Labor hypocrisy. Cracking down on illegal trafficking will help legitimate participants in the firearms industry conduct their business legally.

There is no single measure or package of reforms that can prevent firearm crime or improve safety overnight. While the Labor Party has been inconsistent on firearms, the Coalition fully supports the legitimate use of firearms by sporting and recreational shooters and will ensure the needs and interests of legal firearms owners have been well considered in the development of future firearms reforms.

liberal.org.au



Justice Minister Michael Keenan, who chairs the Firearms Industry Reference Group.

THE NATIONALS for Regional Australia

THE NATIONALS RECOGNISES that responsible shooting and hunting are part of day-to-day life for many Australians, especially in regional areas. The Nationals recognises and promotes the significant contribution responsible recreational shooters and hunters make to key aspects of the Australian community, including:

Economic: Recreational tourism during any hunting season contributes significantly to regional economies. There is significant employment and economic value in the more than 400 firearms dealers, mainly small family businesses employing over 3000 Australians, together with other associated industries across Australia. Continued investment in recreational infrastructure and land access is highly important to hunting, fishing, bushwalking, horse-riding and other adventure sports.

Social: The Nationals recognises the important health and community benefits of participation in competitive shooting sports and agrees that access to sport funding and support programs should be available for all licensed shooters, particularly those in regional Australia.

Environmental: Shooting is an appropriate method of vermin and pest control and the Nationals believes such control is not only important for the viability of farmers and the economy of farming communities, but also for the responsible maintenance of public land and protection of biodiversity.

Shooting is a significant and legitimate industry and our firearms laws and regulations should be fair and applied in a way that has as little impact as possible on people using firearms for legitimate purposes.

We understand that securing the future of responsible recreational shooting and hunting requires consultation with key stakeholder groups, including importers, retailers, consumers and firearms safety advocates, to ensure regulation is evidence-based, effective and supports this legitimate recreational sport.

The Nationals will ensure the Federal Government consults at all levels with recreational shooters, hunters and the firearms industry on matters affecting the operation of business and participants in activities of interest to them.

The Nationals understands that regulations and policies affecting farmers, recreational shooters, hunters and the firearms industry should not be based on ideological dogma, but on facts established through robust and comprehensive data and research.

The Nationals is committed to reducing red tape and unnecessary regulations, policies and procedures that have a detrimental

The Nationals statement



Leader of The Nationals, Deputy Prime Minister and Member for New England, NSW Barnaby Joyce.

impact on shooters, hunters and the firearms industry.

The Nationals believes shooting and hunting should be undertaken in a responsible way and supports safety and education programs for shooters about safe firearms practice.

The Nationals acknowledges the contribution the firearms industry makes to the economy and wider community and reaffirms its belief in the importance of shooting and hunting for farmers and as a recreational activity for all Australians.

That is why we have worked tirelessly to support the firearms industry throughout this past term in government and will continue to into the future should we be re-elected on July 2.

nationals.org.au



Australian Labor Party statements



David Feeney
Shadow Justice Minister
Electorate: Batman, Victoria

on firearm issues that relate to areas of the Commonwealth's responsibility. A way to ensure this happens is by reintroducing the Commonwealth Firearms Advisory Council (CFAC), which was scrapped by the Liberal Government in 2013. Previously, the CFAC included former police firearms specialists, gun dealers and sporting shooters, representing all parts of the shooters' community. It is important that the shooters' community has a way to directly engage and consult with Government.

Labor is committed to a safe and fair Australia. One should not hinder the other.

AUSTRALIAN LABOR RECOGNISES the work undertaken by the Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia (SSAA National) for recreational shooters, farmers and hunters. Labor understands that the majority of firearm owners comply with the relevant legislation and acknowledges the work of the various firearms organisations in promoting the safe use and storage of firearms.

As many of you would be aware, issues relating to the prevention, detection and prosecution of crime are, for the most part, the responsibility of state and territory governments. The various categories of firearms were agreed by all Australian jurisdictions at a special meeting of the Australasian Police Ministers' Council in May 1996 (the 1996 National Firearms Agreement). The categories are reflected in both Commonwealth legislation that regulates firearm imports Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956 and state and territory legislation that regulates licencing (such as the *Firearms Act 1996* (Vic)). Any changes to the categories would need to be approved by all jurisdictions through the Law, Crime and Community Safety Council (LCCSC).

Following the recommendations of the Martin Place Siege Review, the Australian Labor Party joined with the Government in supporting a review of the National Firearms Agreement (NFA). While we await the recommendations of the outcome, it is important that we do not undermine this process. In response to a question on notice provided on January 28, 2016, the Government advised that the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) would consider the update of the NFA in the first half of 2016. Labor will carefully consider the outcomes of the NFA review when they are released.

Labor believes that as gun technology is updated, it is appropriate that our laws are reviewed to ensure that they keep up with the advances in technology and don't become outdated.

Labor understands the importance of recreational shooters, farmers and hunters having a voice and participating in consultation



Jim Chalmers
Shadow Sports Minister
Electorate: Rankin,
Queensland

AUSTRALIAN LABOR WILL continue to support shooting sports in Australia through government investment in high-performance sport and community participation. Participation in shooting sports helps encourage outdoor recreation, foster community connections and promote the safe and responsible use of firearms.

We will support our elite athletes and improve elite pathways to keep Australian shooters at the forefront of Olympic, Paralympic and other international sport. Success for Australians in international sport creates role models for young Australians and encourages participation in grassroots sport. Labor will strengthen Australia's sporting systems and will ensure the Australian Institute of Sport is a world-class facility for elite athletes.

Labor will continue to support the promotion of women's sport, including shooting sports, and efforts to increase the general profile of women's sport in Australia.

Labor will support sport, including shooting sports, for people with disability and establishing pathways for athletes with a disability.

alp.org.au

The Australian Greens - untrustworthy and undeserving of shooters' votes



THE AUSTRALIAN GREENS may have undergone an image shift by opting for the more moderate Victorian farmer Richard Di Natale when former leader Christine Milne retired suddenly last year, but don't be fooled by the trendy GQ magazine spread and toned-down rhetoric from the new leader. The Greens still apparently harbours an ideological hatred for civilian firearms ownership and recreational hunting.

Ignoring the invitation and several attempts by the SSAA to share its policies on firearms, hunting and the shooting sports with the entire firearms community, public comments by Greens politicians in Canberra and other states, along with the party's political record, paints a sad picture for fellow hunters and proud conservationists whose values were once more closely aligned with the original environmental party.

Following the unsuccessful Senate Inquiry into gun-related violence led by the now-retired anti-gun Senator Penny Wright, the Greens tried a different tact and used the anniversary of the Port Arthur murders to emotionally call for further restrictions on law-abiding firearm owners. Although the flashy Greens website is quick to point out that its 'Handguns off the streets' policy is from the 2013 election, there is no evidence to show that the party does not and will not campaign for the same onerous and outrageous restrictions on shooters, which would see self-loading handguns banned for all users except police and defence personnel. "We know that banning semi-automatic handguns is an important step in reducing firearm-related deaths and violent crime...Australia must take steps to limit the number of guns available to reduce the number of guns falling into the hands of criminals," the party's offensive policy states.

The Greens also uses its small political presence to represent a

number of other anti-shooting policies, including preventing those under 18 years of age from taking up shooting as a valid sport; banning hunting in national parks and state forests; calling for centralised storage; trying to introduce animal liberation ideologies; and pledging to make it near impossible to purchase multiple firearms by changing genuine reason requirements.

This year has seen current firearms spokesman Tasmanian Senator Nick McKim, who is a vocal 1080 bait opponent but is unclear on what pest control method he actually supports, jump on the anti-Adler shotgun bandwagon and follow the off-key tune of his predecessor Ms Wright, telling the media that: "The Australian Greens are extremely concerned about the number of lever-action shotguns pouring into the country, which can only increase the risk to our community and make Australia a less safe place to live and work." He has also been reported as saying that the importation of the Adler "could necessitate another costly buy-back funded by taxpayers if these weapons are controlled under the NFA, as they should be."

In a further display of hypocrisy the federal branch of the Greens have not supported the Coalition's attempts to introduce mandatory minimum sentencing for illegal firearms trafficking, whereas their Victorian counterparts publicly supported the passage of similar laws just last year. Therefore the Greens remain undeserving of the trust of Australia's one million legal firearm users and supporters. The bottom line is, don't vote for the Greens, make sure you know where preferences will flow and be vigilant of any preference deals done come election-day.

greens.org.au

KATTER'S
*** AUSTRALIAN PARTY**

Katter's Australian Party statement



Leader of Katter's Australian Party and the Member for Kennedy, Queensland, Bob Katter.

PERSONAL FREEDOMS ARE one of the key tenants of the KAP philosophy and support for hunting and the shooting sports runs to the very heart of Katter's Australian Party. Our support for shooters has been enshrined in the party's constitution from its very inception and is reflected in two core values, including the freedom to pursue outdoor recreational activities and opening up 'off-limits' land to the people.

Support is one thing, but real change is needed to put an end to unfair and illogical firearm legislation, open up to shooters vast tracts of the country which are currently being devastated by introduced feral pests and refocus police resources to the real problem of the illicit firearms trade. To facilitate these changes, the KAP has developed three key initiatives.

The first initiative is establishing a statutory authority known as the Australian Fish and Wildlife Authority to promote and facilitate safe and sustainable fish and wildlife activities. This includes establishing a system of using licensed and accredited shooters to provide humane feral pest culling and control on government lands where it is safe and appropriate to do so. The objective of the program will be to avoid the use of poisoning programs wherever possible and ensure government lands are not used to provide uncontrolled breeding areas for disease-carrying feral pests.

The Authority will also reestablish and manage licensed duck and quail seasons in all states where applicable and avoid government-funded culling if volunteer networks can be more cost-effectively utilised. It will also support a wild venison industry and export of wild game products while promoting fish and wildlife tourism and establishing recreational-only fishing areas.

The second initiative will see the KAP sponsor amendments to the National Firearms Agreement (NFA) aimed at refocusing licensing efforts in line with community expectations. The KAP will commit to table the requested amendments in the appropriate forums and lobby for national agreement and adoption.

The highlights of the amendments are that there will be no changes to restrictions on firearms central to community concerns at the time of drafting the original NFA. There will also be national efficiency savings for police administration, freeing more than 200,000 policing hours nationally and allowing police to focus on areas of current community concern. There would be a real-time firearm licence verification system, allowing licensed firearm owners, who are already in possession of firearms, to purchase subsequent firearms without delay, while providing real-time identification of 'people of concern', along with recategorisation of Category C firearms to allow access by sporting shooters. These include low-capacity semi-automatic .22s, low-capacity pump shotguns and low-capacity semi-automatic shotguns. We also support the scrapping of registration requirements for low-powered air rifles and BB guns.

Finally, the KAP also wants to shift police resources away from administering licensed firearm owners and focus resources on improved detection and intervention capabilities targeting illicit firearms distribution. A special taskforce will be established within the Federal Police to ensure all efficiencies gained by the police are retained and reallocated within the department in line with a more proactive policy of detection and intervention of illicit firearm activities, drug-related violence and organised crime.

kattersaustralianparty.com.au



Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party statement

THE SHOOTERS, FISHERS and Farmers Party (SFFP) is the largest political organisation dedicated to protecting and furthering the rights of law-abiding firearms owners. No other party has delivered on a commitment to protecting shooters' rights like the SFFP. With five Members of Parliament already serving in three different states, 2016 is our best chance to secure our first federal Senator (or two).

We are the only political party that has consistently fought for your rights in the face of increasing red tape and vilification of law-abiding firearms owners. Our representatives are working tirelessly to ensure that our culture is protected and our freedoms are returned. The events of the past 18 months have confirmed one thing: law-abiding firearms owners cannot trust our government. Calls for more unnecessary regulation and the demonisation of law-abiding firearms owners have become commonplace among opportunist members of Federal Government and media. Not to mention, changes to the Senate voting system have been specifically designed to try to lock out minor parties like ours.

We need representatives in government who recognise the cultural and economic significance of hunting and the value of firearms ownership - someone to call out the lies, scaremongering and bullying. To that end, our five-point action plan embodies our commitment to delivering a fairer outcome for all law-abiding firearms owners:

1. Repeal the 1996 National Firearms Agreement of COAG;
2. Vehemently oppose the establishment of a Commonwealth Firearms Registry;
3. Expand access to appropriate public lands and waters for all recreational users, including hunters, fishers and four-wheel drivers;
4. Remove federal red tape regulations for firearms imports where relevant state and territory requirements have been met; and
5. Table a Bill outlawing animal liberation-based hate campaigning.

Our communities can't afford another three years of neglect by either of the major parties, supported by their mates in the Greens. We will advocate for pragmatic solutions to the real issues facing Australians, regardless of political correctness - a voice of reason, commonsense and conservation, not media hype and scare campaigning. United, we can affect some real change and deliver fairer outcomes for all shooters, fishers and farmers. No other party is committed to protecting your freedoms and injecting some commonsense into government like us.

shootersandfishers.org.au



Andrew Skerritt
Shooters, Fishers and
Farmers Party candidate,
Senate, WA

"It is a great privilege to have the opportunity to represent so many great Western Australians involved in shooting, fishing and farming.

"My family has a small farm in Narrogin, WA and I have been involved in shooting, fishing and farming all of my adult life. I work as a barrister, practising criminal and commercial law and have represented lots of shooters and farmers along the way.

"In the current political climate it is vital that Western Australians involved in shooting, hunting, fishing and farming have a strong voice actively protecting their rights from ill-informed politicians and an aggressive media. Law-abiding shooters, hunters, fishers and farmers have been vilified and stripped of their rights for far too long. It's time it stopped.

"I look forward to representing all the shooters, farmers and fishers as well as protecting the rights of all Australians as a member of the Senate for WA."



Ross Williamson
Shooters, Fishers and
Farmers Party candidate,
Senate, WA

A lawyer since 1986, Ross Williamson, 57, is a successful criminal defence lawyer and the most experienced firearms lawyer in Australia. He has appeared in the High Court of Australia in criminal cases and the

Supreme Court in firearms cases. He has always been involved in the many campaigns for shooters' rights. He sadly recalls the WA Parliament passing the law that banned duck seasons (thanks to an ex-Liberal Party member) in 1992.

For Mr Williamson, the fallout from Port Arthur is easily remembered. "The worse part of that time was the demonisation of private firearms ownership by the media," he said. He helped the Pastoralist and Graziers Association in its efforts to change the law so that cattle station workers could have handguns. He has just written an extensive submission to the Law Reform Commission, which is about to make recommendations about WA's firearms laws.

Mr Williamson brings to the SFFP valuable expertise. "I am keen to expose the anti-firearm view as for the ignorant nonsense that is the child of the authoritarian, urban-centric, the primitivist green, socialist thinking that is wrecking this country" he said. A farmer's son who used to use a gun everyday as a boy and still a keen hunter, Mr Williamson has certainly seen Australia change over the past 50 years.



Liberal Democratic Party statement

THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATS strongly supports the right to own firearms for sporting, hunting, collecting and self-defence. Senator David Leyonhjelm, leader of the Liberal Democrats, forced the government to put a time limit on its ban on imports of the seven-shot Adler shotgun. He withheld his support for legislation important to the government until the government buckled. Without this, a permanent ban would be in place today. Hard-nosed negotiations such as this is needed to protect your rights as a law-abiding shooter.

Senator Leyonhjelm believes firearms owners should work together. Along with firearms organisations in each of the states, he headed off proposals to change the National Firearms Agreement in ways that were detrimental to law-abiding firearms owners.

Senator Leyonhjelm led negotiations with the government to achieve secure tenure over the shooting range at Malabar, ensuring shooters in the Sydney region will enjoy world-class facilities for decades to come. Senator Leyonhjelm also regularly brings Customs officials to account for their arbitrary and unreasonable treatment of those importing legal firearm parts.

Senator Leyonhjelm has campaigned against the lock-the-gate attitude taken by many managers of national parks. The Liberal Democrats support improved access to national parks, including for hunting.

Senator Leyonhjelm and the Liberal Democrats regularly argue that restrictions on gun owners merely affect those who are law-abiding.

The Liberal Democrats are the only party that believes you should be able to use your firearms for self-defence, something Senator Leyonhjelm regularly advocates in the media. Your home is your castle, and when seconds count, the police are minutes away.

Some political parties say nice things to audiences of shooters, but they rarely say them in public and don't deliver in Parliament. Only the Liberal Democrats have the track record that proves they will look after shooters. Australia's 800,000-plus firearms owners deserve serious, committed representation in the Federal Parliament. The Liberal Democrats provide that representation.

ldp.org.au



David Leyonhjelm is running for the Senate again in New South Wales.



Australian Motoring Enthusiast Party statement

AMEP - AUSTRALIAN MOTORING Enthusiast Party. Our diversity is our strength. A voice for all the enthusiasts...

We stand for your right to live the lifestyle of your choice.

We stand for a 'fair go for all' and minimal government interference.

We believe in personal responsibility and the people of Australia.

The crossover between the shooting community and the motoring community is our strength as we stand up against the government's changing the rules to suit its own agendas. It is crucial our communities have friends in Parliament to offset the strong anti-gun, anti-motoring lobby groups and we need to stand united wherever possible.

As a Senatorial party, it is not necessary for us to have policy on all issues. Instead, our policy is to make balanced and informed decisions based on our party values.

If re-elected, AMEP Senator Ricky Muir will continue to be a voice for the firearm community as he has done several times since taking up his Senate seat. One of his most recent videos exposing the truth about the Adler is testament to our views.

amep.net.au



Ricky Muir in action with an Alder. He is running for re-election in the Senate for Victoria.



Australian Country Party statement

THE AUSTRALIAN COUNTRY Party (ACP), formerly the Country Alliance, supports the government and police in eradicating the community of illegal firearms and eliminating illegal firearm usage. However, we will staunchly defend the rights of licensed firearm owners. The separation of legally held firearms and their owners from the criminal misuse of firearms is both logical and imperative.

Safe storage is a responsibility of firearm owners, but we insist the emphasis on stolen firearms be put back onto the thieves. We support the increase of penalties for firearm theft and illegal use of firearms, particularly in the commission of a crime.

We support the reclassification of some national parks to increase access to user groups such as hunters, but we do not support the creation of new national parks that will reduce access to the community. The ACP also does not support legislative changes that further restrict access to land for hunting and shooting.

The ACP supports hunting in many forms and, when conducted in accordance with the principles of 'fair chase' and the applicable laws of each state, hunting is a significant contributor to our economy, environment and social well-being. We support the continuation of waterfowl and quail seasons in those states where seasons are legislated and will advocate for the re-establishment of seasons in states where hunting of these species is no longer permitted.

Deer are an esteemed game animal worldwide and must be treated as such in this country. The ACP is opposed to baiting or aerial culling of deer and will call for the use of recreational hunters as the first option when addressing problem deer. There should be a greater effort by state governments to utilise hunting organisations within parks and reserves where hunting is not currently permitted as a means of controlling pest animals.

The ACP views the use of firearms by farmers as standard farming practice and the government needs not be overly intrusive. Primary producers should have access to self-loading firearms without undue scrutiny and red tape.

We fully support and encourage sport and competition shooting. Shooting groups are uniquely positioned to assist the government in policy development by providing expert and fact-based knowledge and experience. A review of the current firearms categories is overdue. Any changes made must be in collaboration with the larger shooting associations and representative groups.

countryparty.org.au

Dr Julian Fidge Electorate: Indi, Victoria



"I was a soldier, then an officer in the Australian Army. I have served overseas on operations with 6th Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment. I am safe and proficient in the use of small arms.

"I am a current member of Benalla Pistol Club, where I shoot as often as I can.

"I am a farmer and have a longarms licence. I use firearms for the destruction of wild dogs, sick or injured stock and the destruction of pests like rabbits.

"I believe that the laws and regulations Australia has in place at the moment strike a good balance between controlling access to firearms and making them available for legitimate purposes such as target shooting, hunting and other sports shooting. I would not support further restrictions on firearms availability.

"I am standing for election because I would like to see country people get their fair share of attention and finance from the Federal Government. At the moment, rural people get about 30 per cent of the money they pay in taxes returned to them. The other 70 per cent is spent in metropolitan areas in order to buy votes. If you live in rural Australia and you think you aren't getting a fair deal from the government, you're right."



Family First statement

FAMILY FIRST SUPPORTS the vital role that recreational and commercial shooters, farmers and other landholders play in backing sustainability, land care and native wildlife, particularly through culling, sporting shooting and the eradication of pest species.

Family First believes that Australia's rich and extensive state parks, marine areas and forests should be open for all families to enjoy. We also support family values and education about responsible firearms use and families' freedom to pursue boating, camping, fishing, hiking, hunting, offroading and shooting without excessive government fees or restrictions. Ensuring the community has access to our natural treasures will give Australians a greater appreciation and respect for nature and the environment.

Family First is opposed to the radical views and excessive regulation advocated by environmentalists and the Greens who are fundamentally opposed to sporting shooters.

Family First supports keeping firearm laws as a state matter and opposes any federal takeover of firearms regulation. This is in keeping with our policy of ending Commonwealth/State duplication by removing the Commonwealth from areas of state responsibility.

Family First supports better, stronger and genuine prior



Family First Federal Chairman and SA Senator Bob Day.

consultation with sporting shooters and other stakeholder groups, not a 'take it or leave it' government approach. No further expansion of firearms legislation should proceed without (a) transparent evidence of imminent risk to public safety, or (b) a compelling cost-benefit analysis.

Family First discourages the expensive exercise of public servants conducting culling programs when volunteers, native titleholders or even members of the public paid via bounties, may be able to do the job more cost-effectively.

Family First is committed to consulting with the game meat industry towards domestic and export opportunities from sustainably harvesting native and introduced species (such as kangaroo and deer).

Family First opposes laws that prevent sporting shooters returning from overseas with trophies, subject to biosecurity clearance.

Family First supports stronger criminal laws preserving the property rights of farmers and other landholders against intrusions from animal activists.

Family First supports the increased levels of defence spending and enhanced opportunities for international military collaboration, research, development and training.

familyfirst.org.au



Democratic Labour Party statement

THE DEMOCRATIC LABOUR Party (DLP) has policies supporting competition shooting, recreational shooting, hunting for food and culling pests. Many of our DLP executive are shooters and others support the sport in all its forms.

The DLP definition of a 'worker' is not just blue collar and white collar traditional workers, but also self-employed workers such as small businesspeople and farmers. As such, the rural link in our party is strong and it is natural for the DLP to support shooting in general.

The DLP recognises that shooting is a foundation sport of the Olympic movement and supports shooting as a legitimate sport from club level to elite level, including Olympic, world and Commonwealth levels. It supports all disciplines of shooting being included at elite levels. The DLP recognises that shooting is a martial art and as such has many benefits for participants.

The DLP supports the removal of law-abiding, licensed firearm

owners from the CrimTrac database used by Australian authorities for tracking criminals. The DLP supports the existing laws licensing firearm owners and storage of firearms, but opposes any move to centrally store firearms.

The DLP supports hunting for personal food use by licensed firearm owners with the permission of rural and regional landowners. Deer, rabbit, hare, duck, quail, kangaroo, wallaby and crocodile can be taken for personal food use. The DLP would work with the Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia (SSAA) to control native and introduced pests and vermin.

The DLP supports the culling of pests and vermin from national or state parks by licenced firearm owners working with park rangers. The DLP supports the SSAA Farmer Assist program to cull and control native and introduced pests and vermin in rural and regional areas for rural and regional landowners.

dlp.org.au



Pauline Hanson's One Nation statement

THE MASSACRE AT Port Arthur on April 28, 1996, was the lynchpin for the Howard Government to implement strict gun control. The buy-back of almost 700,000 guns cost Australian taxpayers over \$500 million. The forced buy-back was indiscriminate, netting relics, family heirlooms and prized possessions. Sadly, they were handed over for the same price as worthless firearms and those who surrendered them were given a few hundred dollars. The reality is it was only the honest that handed their guns in, not the criminals.

Pauline Hanson's One Nation is not opposed to gun control, but does oppose taking guns by stealth from law-abiding Australians. Guns have always been a part of our culture and were instrumental in the defence of our country during World War Two.

Gun laws in Australia are stringent on law-abiding citizens. It is the government's responsibility to take stronger action against criminals. In almost 100 per cent of offences committed with a gun, the offender was not licensed and the weapon was stolen or acquired unlawfully. The Federal Government has a lot to answer for with regards to border security and the serious lack of inspecting containers arriving at our ports. Most illegally imported guns are a result of poor border security.

Statistics show that the majority of stolen guns are taken from the police and defence forces. The government must, as a matter of urgency, teach its own forces better gun management and storage, so their weapons do not end up in the hands of criminals.

Pauline Hanson's One Nation firearms policy is based on the following principles:

Shooting is a legitimate sport and pastime and participants should be treated accordingly.

Australians have the right to defend themselves and their families in their own homes.

Disarming law-abiding Australians is not in the national interest and will do nothing to reduce crime.

onenation.com.au



Pauline Hanson is running as a Senate candidate for Queensland.

Friend or foe?

In addition to sourcing information first-hand from the major and key minor political parties, SSAA-LA, in conjunction with the SSAA State and Territory branches, have identified key supporters of the shooting sports and hunting who deserve your vote, while also zeroing in on those who have actively opposed elements - or all - of our chosen recreation. While we are pleased most of the parties provided some form of response, we did not hear from the Nick Xenophon Team along with the Australian Greens.

The following featured 'friends or foes' offer just a snapshot of more than a thousand candidates across 150 electorates, so we implore you to do your own research before you head to the ballot box on July 2.



FRIEND:

Ian Goodenough MP
Electorate: Moore, WA

Ian Goodenough is an active sporting shooter, accredited shooting coach and paid-up life member of the SSAA. He commenced competitive shooting at 11 years of age, starting with smallbore rifle before participating in clay target and pistol disciplines. A keen firearms collector, Ian also participates in hunting in northern Western Australia.

Since being elected to Federal Parliament, Ian enthusiastically became a founding member of the Parliamentary Friends of Shooting group, which aims to raise public awareness of shooting and project a positive image of our sport among our nation's leaders and decision makers. Ian has made speeches in Parliament promoting responsible firearms ownership.

He encourages clubs across Australia to invite their local, state and federal elected representatives to family open days, annually, to experience shooting in a responsible environment. As a club coach, Ian actively encourages new shooters to try the sport so that community participation will continue to grow.



FRIEND:

Senator Bridget McKenzie
Electorate: Victoria

Growing up in Victoria with the traditional rural influences of small business, sport and agriculture, Senator Bridget McKenzie believes that strong regional economies and secure regional communities are critical to the future prosperity of Australia. Recognising small business is the backbone of

many regional communities, Senator McKenzie wants to ensure they have every opportunity to prosper along with giving a voice to young Australians.

Elected as a Senator for Victoria in 2010 with her official term commencing on July 1, 2011, Senator McKenzie is a strong advocate for the shooting sports and has publically demonstrated her passion for the recreation, despite copping the usual media flak. She is co-chair of the Parliamentary Friends of Shooting group and has been an outspoken, vibrant and key member of the Nationals Party.



FRIEND:

Eric Hutchinson MP
Electorate: Lyons, Tasmania

Eric Hutchinson is a born and bred Tasmanian who grew up and went to school in Launceston. A former student of Launceston Church Grammar School, Eric completed a three-year wool and fibre marketing course before working and travelling overseas as an exporter and trader. Upon returning to Tasmania, Eric worked throughout Lyons in his role as marketing manager for wool with Roberts Limited. He was elected to Parliament in 2013 taking the seat from 20-year incumbent and shooting sports supporter Dick Adams.

SSAA Tasmania President Andrew Judd said, like Dick, Eric has been a supporter of the shooting sports in Tasmania and encourages licensed firearm owners living in the Lyons electorate to reinstate Eric at the election.

FOE:

Jason Wood

Electorate: La Trobe, Victoria

A known anti-hunter who was behind the ignorant trophy hunting ban is Liberal MP, Jason Wood. Mr Wood vocally attacked the lawful pursuit of Australian hunters in his misguided crusade against trophy hunting and is now lending his voice to the animal liberation movement of the RSPCA.

SSAA Victoria President Denis Moroney warned against usual Liberal or swing voters in the outer Melbourne electorate of casting their vote in favour of Mr Wood. "Jason Wood is no friend of ours. He has consistently demonised hunters who participate in legal and legitimate conservation efforts both here and overseas," he said. "This man has no respect for the men and women who put food on the table for their families, who assist with animal population control, who have a genuine love of the outdoors and spending time with their families, and who pour millions of dollars each year into regional, interstate and overseas economies. It's time he learnt that the shooting fraternity's vote counts. Vote Jason Wood last."

FOE:

Mature Australia Party

There are many minor parties who will be doing their best to win your vote, but don't be fooled by friendly names as not all parties support our chosen recreation. The Mature Australia Party (MAP) is one of them. In an article published on its website on February 4, titled 'Don't go the USA way!', the MAP ignorantly praises "the very positive impact that our strict laws, introduced following the 1996 massacre, has had on such crimes throughout Australia since then...A massive national weapons buy-back followed, plus strict controls on gun ownership which has since been lauded, worldwide...but now some shooting enthusiasts want to reverse that. That cannot be allowed to happen."

Some saving grace for the party is its call "for authorities, at all levels, to crack down harder on offenders who use guns or rifles to commit crimes of violence in our communities. That includes sterner enforceable penalties by our Courts." But as many other uninformed and emotionally-led parties make the mistake of doing, the MAP appears to link legitimate firearms with a rise in violent crime and paint the flawed NFA as effective in stopping gun crime. So as an informed sporting shooter or hunter, stay clear of the MAP.

SSAA-LA

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Follow the campaign with the SSAA-LA

Read the latest stories and party statements online

ssaa.org.au/election

Subscribe to our SSAA-LA emails

ssaa.org.au/e-newsletter

Like us on Facebook

facebook.com/ssaanational

