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*The political voice of the SSAA*



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**SSAA-LA**  
LEGISLATIVE ACTION

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# In this issue

# ASJ

**The political voice  
of the SSAA**

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# Support those who support us

## A message from SSAA National President Geoff Jones



This year we have seen a concerted and coordinated attack from the anti-firearms lobby and the politicians who support them. Law-abiding shooters and the SSAA have endured a 'trial by media', where those with no knowledge of the Australian firearms environment - or those who know the truth but ignore it in favour of sensationalism and fearmongering - have spread disinformation and vilified Australia's near one million responsible, law-abiding firearms owners. As every shooter knows, equating the Australian firearms community with gun violence and crime is ridiculous.

Recently, every political party has made public statements that they have no interest in 'watering down' Australia's firearms laws. Law-abiding firearms owners are just as interested in public safety issues as anyone else - more so in fact. There is no record anywhere of the SSAA going against sensible firearms laws that are practical, workable and will have a genuine outcome to make a safer Australia.

What we don't want is a review of firearms laws which won't increase public safety. In the past, laws have been created that have had unintended consequences or caused an undue burden on law enforcement resources which could be better used fighting firearms-related crime.

Over the coming days, some politicians may seek what they think is an easy vote-winner, sacrifice good policy for perceived populism, and promote nonsensical changes to existing laws. We need to remind them there are almost one million shooters in Australia who care about sensible firearms policy - and vote.

On the positive side, over the past three years we have continued to present the mainstream face of shooting to Senators and MPs and build working relationships with Government and Opposition Ministers and spokespeople. We have been active in debunking claims made by anti-firearms lobbyists, promoting the shooting sports and contributing to policy debates around such issues as the impact of feral deer and the relationship between firearms ownership and domestic violence (ie, none).

The 2017 national firearms amnesty was a success, with SSAA lobbying hard for a model where many states and territories

allowed those with unregistered firearms to register or sell them through licensed firearms dealers. Almost 60 per cent of firearms handed in during the amnesty were subsequently registered, which has been a great outcome.

Recently, and of particular note, is the survey of recreational shooting lobbied for by the SSAA and undertaken by the Office of Sport under the auspices of Minister Bridget McKenzie. We all know shooting has many economic, conservation, health and social benefits and this survey may finally provide an Australia-wide picture of those to help enlighten the non-shooting public about the benefits of what we do.

As the country's largest and most representative shooting organisation, the SSAA invited all the major and key minor parties to submit their views on firearms, hunting and the shooting sports for publication in this *ASJ: 2019 Federal Election special edition*.

These statements come directly from the parties, with the exception of the Australian Greens who chose not to respond. Their record is clear and consists of attacks on the firearms community, an attitude that firearms owners should be treated like criminals, and supporting changes to firearms laws based on fiction instead of fact.

The SSAA will always support those who support us and embrace evidence-based policy over emotion. We will continue to call out those who promote policies designed to punish law-abiding firearms owners, taking the focus away from where it belongs. The evidence clearly shows it is the criminal element and illicit firearms market which pose the biggest threat.

When you cast your vote this month, we encourage you to use this information as a guide for those who support your recreation. However, don't just vote for a party - take time to find out what your local candidates think about shooting.

Our only advice is to suggest you put the Greens last as their continual attacks and utter refusal to engage with the law-abiding firearms community speaks volumes on how they see us all.

With close to a million shooters as well as their families and friends, together we represent a significant proportion of the Australian voting public. Now's the time to make your voice heard.



## Liberal Party of Australia statement

**F**irearms regulations must balance the rights of all Australians to be safe and secure with the interests of those with a genuine reason and need to have access to them. The Liberal Party of Australia recognises that responsible shooting and hunting are part of day-to-day life for many Australians, especially in regional areas.

There are almost one million Australians who are registered firearm owners, most engaged in recreational shooting at thousands of clubs nationwide, and many use firearms as part of their daily work in pest management and farming. The Australian community expects that access to firearms is limited to fit and proper people and that relevant information must be readily available to those making decisions about whether people should have access to firearms.

A re-elected Liberal Government would continue to engage with the states and territories, which have primary responsibility for the management of firearms in Australia. The Commonwealth has responsibility for cross-border trafficking offences and the import and export of firearms and firearm-related articles. The Commonwealth and the states and territories work closely to ensure the national approach to the regulation of firearms is supported by national information-sharing systems.

The Liberal Party believes shooting and hunting should be undertaken in a responsible way and supports safety and education

programs for shooters about safe firearms practice. The Coalition Government has established the Commonwealth Firearms Advisory Council (CFAC) to provide industry direct access to the Federal Government to discuss matters of interest and concern.

We appreciate the role shooting sports play at a social level and in the elite sporting landscape at international level. International excellence is based on a strong pathway through local clubs and organised competitions and there are an estimated 300,000 registered Australians engaged in sports shooting across almost 1200 clubs. The Liberal Party recognises the social and economic benefits these clubs provide to sporting shooters and communities throughout Australia.

**[liberal.org.au](http://liberal.org.au)**



## Australian Labor Party statement

### Justice

Australian Labor recognises the work undertaken by the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (SSAA National) for recreational shooters, farmers and hunters. We understand the majority of firearm owners comply with the relevant legislation and acknowledge 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 Council of Australian Governments (COAG).

Labor strongly supports Australia's existing gun laws which have kept Australians safe and work to protect against mass-casualty shooting incidents from occurring again. We remain opposed to anything that might serve to weaken or circumvent those laws. We believe that as gun technology is updated it is appropriate our laws are reviewed to ensure they keep up with the advances in technology and don't become outdated.

Labor also understands the importance of recreational shooters, farmers and hunters having a voice and participating in consultation on firearm issues that relate to areas of the Commonwealth's responsibility. Labor is particularly concerned about the rate of firearms theft in Australia. If elected we will work cooperatively with recreational shooters, farmers and hunters and their representatives to develop measures to better prevent theft of firearms from lawful owners. Labor is committed to a safe and fair Australia - one should not hinder the other.

### Sport

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 ensure the Australian Institute of Sport is a world-class facility for elite athletes.

We 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](http://alp.org.au)



## Nationals Party of Australia statement

**T**here are more than one million Australians who are registered firearms owners and more than 100,000 participants every week engaged in the sport across the country. Most are engaged in recreational shooting at thousands of clubs nationwide and many use firearms as part of their daily work in pest management and farming.

The Nationals recognise that responsible shooting and hunting are part of day-to-day life for many Australians, especially in regional areas, and recognise and promote the significant contribution responsible recreational shooters and hunters make to key aspects of the Australian community.

The Nationals will ensure the federal government continues to have an ongoing forum for industry engagement which will include recreational shooters, hunters and industry on matters affecting the operation of business and participants in activities of interest to them on an ongoing basis.

We understand 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 are committed to reducing red tape and unnecessary regulations, policies and procedures that have a detrimental impact on shooters, hunters and the firearms industry. We believe shooting and hunting should be undertaken in a responsible way and support safety and education programs for shooters about safe firearms practice.

The Nationals acknowledge the contribution the industry makes to the economy through research and development, defence industry and thousands of small business. We reaffirm our belief on the importance of shooting and hunting for farmers and as a recreational activity for all Australians.

The Nationals appreciate the role shooting sports play in the elite sporting landscape at international levels. International excellence is based on a strong pathway through local clubs and organised

competitions and being involved in vibrant sporting clubs contributes to the physical, social and mental health benefits of all Australians.

In government, The Nationals have delivered the following for sporting shooters: we have worked with the Western Australia Police to ensure Australia Post became a licensed approved commercial carrier of firearms in WA, just like any other state.

The Nationals championed the social and economic benefits of transporting firearms through Australia Post at the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia's SHOT Expo in October 2018 and were pleased to acknowledge that Australia Post was implementing upgrades to its post offices to accommodate the new services.

The Nationals in government ensured we established the Commonwealth Firearms Advisory Council (CFAC) to provide industry direct access to the federal government to discuss matters of interest and concern.

We support law-abiding gun ownership in Australia. Recreational shooters, world champions, farmers, Olympic athletes, small businesses and those with an interest in firearms were invited to take part in the first-ever nationwide survey to measure the economic and social benefits of the sport.

On June 28, 2018 the Minister for Sport announced a study that will seek to quantify the social and economic contribution the shooting industry makes to Australia. Local shooting clubs, regional sports events and shooting tourism can be pivotal economic drivers.

The local employment of more than 1000 firearm dealers and the wider firearm manufacturing industry that support this activity needs to be better understood. Demographic information, along with health and wellbeing benefits for participants, is also being examined and that is why we have worked tirelessly to support recreational shooters throughout this past term in government and will continue to into the future should we be re-elected.

**[nationals.org.au](http://nationals.org.au)**

## The Australian Greens Mouthpiece of the anti-firearms lobby



**F**undamental, ideological hatred for civilian firearms ownership and recreational hunting is the only conclusion we can draw from public statements made by the Australian Greens. In the spirit of fairness and allowing every political party to put their stance forward in their own words, the SSAA made a dozen attempts to allow the Greens to share their policies on firearms, hunting and the shooting sports with the entire firearms community, all of which went unanswered just as they did in the 2016 election. Nor does the national branch of the Greens have a public, published firearms policy. However their statements, speeches and actions at both national and state level over the past three years have been very consistent and speak volumes.

Once upon a time the shooting community, especially the proud conservationists among us, may have found some common ground with the Greens. Unfortunately, over time the party has become more radical, adamant in their moral superiority and unwilling to listen to anything which challenges their preconceived ideas. “We do not recognise at all” the contribution made to the economy and environment by recreational and sporting shooters, says it all.

Statements made and positions taken by the Greens have been literally indistinguishable from those pushed by the anti-firearms lobby, to the point where it’s clear they are in lockstep. They have repeatedly and consistently said Australia’s firearms laws are being ‘watered down’, pushing a debunked Gun Control Australia report that there have been “more than 50 breaches of the National Firearm Agreement across Australian states and territories” - even using their influence in the Senate to pass a motion enshrining that false claim in our Parliamentary records.

They have been clear that they wish to see onerous and draconian restrictions on shooters and firearms, being explicit that they believe “the availability of firearms contributes to violence in our society” - all evidence notwithstanding. In their eyes, firearms owners are irresponsible children “entertaining militaristic fantasies”.

Mass shooting incidents in the US have been cited as reasons to increase firearms regulation in Australia. It’s all dogma, no data. Nor do they believe that organisations such as the SSAA, a membership-based body which directly represents its almost 200,000 members and indirectly stands up for Australia’s near one million legal firearm users, should have any role in our society.

According to the Greens we are “reprehensible” and it’s “important for the corrupting influence of the gun lobby to be eliminated from our democracy urgently”. The voice of firearms owners should be shunned and ignored by all political parties and should we dare to financially support those politicians who have given shooters a fair hearing, that “shouldn’t just alarm us, it should terrify us all”.

So since they don’t trust us, we cannot trust them. Our advice is to put the Greens last on your ballot paper and be vigilant of any preference deals done come election day.

[greens.org.au](http://greens.org.au)





## Katter's Australian Party statement

**T**he KAP in announcing the formation of the party said “we are the freedom party”. Our duty is to protect those freedoms which all Australians have enjoyed for centuries, such as shooting, hunting, camping and fishing.

### **Enhanced law enforcement**

There needs to be an increase in proactive efforts to separate criminals from their firearms. Existing government and law enforcement mechanisms are failing hopelessly to separate dangerous lawbreakers from their firearms.

### **Decriminalise licence breaches on technicalities**

Currently, the law says that if a person fails to renew their licence it is automatically revoked and that person is illegally in possession of a firearm - they automatically become a criminal. Decent people shouldn't be turned into criminals on the basis of overlooking to pay licence renewal fees or other technicalities.

### **Sound moderators**

Not only can sound moderators assist in more effective feral animal control, the sound of gunfire can irritate neighbours. A review of the usage of sound moderators must be undertaken.

### **Cleaning and carrying firearms in a vehicle**

Laws do not protect the person who has his firearm out for cleaning purposes, nor when they are carrying a firearm in their vehicle. In both cases, under current legislation ordinary law-abiding citizens can face serious legal consequences on the basis of misunderstandings or mischievous reports, which needs addressing.

### **Review of appearance laws**

Replica firearms or firearms which have been rendered harmless but have the appearance of being in functioning condition, should not be subject to arbitrary declarations of illegality. There should never be an arbitrary right to declare an item illegal and a person a criminal.

### **Semi-automatic firearms for pest and feral animal management**

People, particularly those in rural areas, need access to semi-automatic firearms to better control feral animals.

### **Category H firearms**

Any owner of a farming operation who has demonstrated responsible firearm ownership by holding a current weapons licence of Category A, B or higher should have a right to own a Category H firearm. KAP wants immediate steps taken to amend the practices of the weapons licensing divisions to ensure farmers have access to Category H firearms.

### **Improved permit system**

Real time licensing will free up resources to crack down on illegal firearms. The current firearms licensing system requires manual processing of applications for Permits to Acquire for Category A and B firearms. This system is slow, inefficient and raises potential community safety concerns. The time currently taken to process applications may result in individuals who commit an offence making them ineligible to hold a licence not being identified.

### **Representation for membership organisations and those involved in the firearms trade on Government Advisory Boards**

Legislation is not only meaningless but impractical and provocative unless such Boards are established including firearms end-users and the firearms industry. Otherwise these laws lead to a society where “the only people who have guns are the people in uniform”.

### **The retention and where possible the creation of new shooting ranges**

Marksmanship is one of Australia's oldest pastimes and should be encouraged by the maintenance of current ranges and introduction of new ones where there is the demand. We should encourage those interested in the shooting sports to revisit their past connections with shooting ranges.

[kap.org.au](http://kap.org.au)





## Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party statement

**T**he Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party are proud supporters and fighters for law-abiding firearms owners. Other parties will only continue to vilify and scaremonger voters about law-abiding shooters and hunters.

We recognise the cultural and economic significance of recreational shooting, hunting and farming. The regulation of firearms should not unduly impede on a law-abiding citizen's pursuit of his or her freedoms, business or undertaking. Opting for good headlines over good policy, Australia's law-abiding firearms community has been burdened with increasingly oppressive regulations while gun crime, particularly in inner city areas, has continued unaffected by new or existing legislation.

Good firearms regulation must enhance community safety while not impeding the individual rights and freedoms of law-abiding

citizens. Community safety is of the utmost importance. The focus of enforcement must be on criminals who misuse firearms as opposed to wasteful, misdirected over-regulation of law-abiding firearms owners. We recognise the importance of background checking and licensing of intending firearms owners as well as safe storage of firearms. We do not support 'American-style gun laws'.

The National Firearms Agreement 2017 (introduced in 1996) has failed to address the vitally important issue of illegal firearm importation, distribution and use in crime. Any future review of the National Firearms Agreement must be evidence-based.

[shootersfishersandfarmers.org.au](http://shootersfishersandfarmers.org.au)



## Australian Conservatives statement

**T**he Conservative Party is strongly supportive of legal sports shooting and hunting. We recognise that shooting is a recreation which attracts people of all ages, from all walks of life and for different reasons, from primary producers for professional reasons, hunters, firearms enthusiasts, sporting shooters and collectors.

Existing firearms laws strike a reasonable balance between allowing people to enjoy firearms safely and managing community expectations. The skill attached to being a good shooter is about discipline, focus, practice and more practice and the typical firearms enthusiast is extremely safety-conscious.

We recognise the general public often misunderstands and vilifies law-abiding firearms owners. From our perspective we have no problem with law-abiding citizens owning guns for pleasure, for hunting purposes or to control pests and manage livestock on their own land.

The sporting shooter is someone who cares about the safety and reputation of others involved in their sport and also for the wider community.

[conservatives.org.au](http://conservatives.org.au)



**LIBERAL  
DEMOCRATS**

## Liberal Democratic Party statement

**T**he Liberal Democrats defend sporting shooters from a position of principle. We believe sport, hunting, collecting and self-defence are all legitimate reasons for owning firearms. We value the role of hunters in positive conservation and environmental outcomes and support greater use of volunteer hunters to protect our national parks.

We also believe adults have a right to a licence unless it has been removed because of a criminal history or genuine prospect of coercion. We reject the claim that owning firearms is a privilege - it is a right that can be lost under certain circumstances. Furthermore, we believe the registration of longarms should be abolished, as has occurred in Canada.

Former Senator David Leyonhjelm represented the Liberal Democrats in federal parliament for the past five years before successfully running in the NSW state election. The party's platform is based on small government, individual choice and personal responsibility. It insists the government is our servant, not our master.

Mr Leyonhjelm is well-known to members, having stood up for firearm owners on many occasions. He lists "saving the Anzac Range in Sydney's Malabar", where SSAA Sydney has one of its ranges, as one of his proudest achievements. He also fought against the Adler ban and has regularly challenged Customs over "their unreasonable treatment of those importing legal firearm parts".

He also exposed the Australian Federal Police for sensationalising firearm seizures and has spoken out against changes to family law which could have seen firearm licence details given to ex-partners and used in divorce proceedings. Mr Leyonhjelm has been replaced in federal parliament by his right-hand man, Senator Duncan Spender, who has also pledged his unwavering support for shooters.

The Liberal Democrats are growing in Australia, represented by keen Airsoft competitor Aaron Stonehouse MLC in Western Australia along with Tim Quilty MLC and David Limbrick MLC in Victoria, who have vowed to protect duck hunting.



**Senator Duncan Spender.**

The Liberal Democrats' policy on firearms is principled, clear and consistent. Our track record demonstrates we get results for shooters. We reject the collective punishment of any group of Australians, especially shooters, because of the crimes of a few individuals, the overwhelming majority of whom are not even licensed firearm owners.

Tougher restrictions on law-abiding firearm owners and increased gun control are not an effective means of crime control - controlling borders and chasing illegal firearms is. Governments sometimes pretend to be supportive of shooters yet their rhetoric is rarely matched by their actions. We are the true party for shooters.

**ldp.org.au**



## Australian Country Party statement

### Firearms laws

The Australian Country Party supports government and police in eradicating illegal firearms from the community and eliminating illegal firearm usage. However, we will staunchly defend legal licensed firearm owners.

The issues of legally held firearms by law-abiding citizens and the criminal misuse of firearms must be separated, as they are indeed separate issues. By far the majority of firearm owners are law-abiding. Police have the powers and responsibility to deal with those who break the law and we support the increase of penalties for firearm theft and illegal use of firearms, particularly in the commission of a crime.

Safe firearm storage and proper licensing is a responsibility of firearm owners, however, we will support any changes that relieve the burden of red tape that is unnecessary and does not contribute to the safety of the community.

A review of the current firearms categories is overdue. Under certain circumstances such as genuine need, we support the reclassification of sporting self-loading firearms that have a long history in Australia to Category B. We also see the advantages of sound moderators fitted to firearms to reduce the incidence of permanent hearing damage in our youth and adult shooting population.

### Access to lands

We support the reclassification of some national parks to increase access to bush user groups such as hunters, prospectors, members of four-wheel drive groups, motorcycle, hiking and horse-riding groups or individuals to share our natural assets. The Australian Country Party does not support the creation of new National Parks that will further reduce access to the community.

### State forests

The Australian Country Party does not support legislative changes to further restrict access to land for hunting and shooting.

### Recreational hunting and pest control

Tens of thousands of Australians enjoy recreational hunting every week. The hunters who assist government departments at no charge should be commended for their community support with pest control and management.

### Firearms and farming

The Australian Country Party views the use of firearms by farmers as standard farming practice. Farmers have learned over generations how to manage their stock and pests and the government needs not be overly intrusive or apprehensive. Primary producers should have access to self-loading firearms without undue scrutiny and red tape.

### Competition/sports shooting

The Australian Country Party fully supports and encourages sports and competition shooting. Australia has a long history of training Olympic and world champions. Competition and sports shooting organisations provide excellent discipline and training for athletes and promote the safe handling and use of firearms.

Sports shooting is well represented by both disabled and able-bodied athletes regardless of gender or physical limitations. Competitive shooting has been proved to be a safe and enjoyable recreational pastime for thousands of Australians. Shooting groups are uniquely positioned to assist government in policy development by providing expert and fact-based knowledge and experience.

### Firearm collectors

The Australian Country Party supports licensed collectors aligned to police-approved societies or guilds to collect, preserve, restore and display antique historical firearms and firearm-related equipment and paraphernalia.

[australiancountryparty.org.au](http://australiancountryparty.org.au)



## United Australia Party

### Mostly unknown

**T**he United Australia Party (formerly the Palmer United Party) did not acknowledge efforts by the SSAA to procure a statement on their recreational shooting and hunting policies, nor does the party have a published firearms policy.

The party is generally silent on firearms issues, although party leader Clive Palmer has previously alluded to a disagreement with Katter's Australian Party on the issue of firearms policy. It must be stressed, however, that statement was made years ago and in no detail.

[unitedaustraliaparty.org.au](http://unitedaustraliaparty.org.au)



## Centre Alliance statement

by Rebekha Sharkie MP

**C**entre Alliance supports responsible gun ownership and Australia's current gun laws. The party does not believe these laws should be changed, however we also believe feral pest eradication plays a role in environmental management. To use a South Australian example, the total eradication of feral goats and deer on Kangaroo Island was the culmination of years of work by feral animal officers working with the feral animal project team at Natural Resources Kangaroo Island.

It is encouraging to hear the environment on the island is already recovering as a result, and this a great example of how properly-managed feral and pest management programs can protect and conserve our native flora and fauna.

[centrealliance.org.au](http://centrealliance.org.au)



## Democratic Labour Party statement

**T**he Democratic Labour Party supports hunting for personal food use by licensed firearms users with the permission of rural and regional landowners. The DLP also supports the existing laws licensing firearms owners and storage of firearms, but opposes any move to centrally store firearms.

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 including Olympic, World and Commonwealth levels. It supports all disciplines of shooting being included at elite levels.

We support the removal of law-abiding, licensed firearms owners from the 'CrimTrac' data base used by Australian authorities for tracking criminals.

The DLP supports the culling and control of native and introduced pests and vermin by licensed firearms owners with the permission of landowners. We support the SSAA's Farmer Assist program and believe the control of pests and vermin will assist our ecosystem and the preservation and protection of our flora and fauna.

[dlp.org.au](http://dlp.org.au)



## Pauline Hanson's One Nation statement

One Nation recognises that registered firearm owners through their training are among the most responsible of all Australians. Federally, One Nation will encourage states and territories to:

- Increase penalties for crimes committed using a firearm and for any theft of a firearm.
- Remove firearms from anyone being investigated for terrorism offences.
- Review the NFA in consultation with all stakeholders and industry experts with the object of reducing red tape for legitimate firearm users, while increasing public safety through focusing on criminal misuse of firearms which the current NFA completely fails to address.
- Institute an ongoing firearms amnesty for any person who wishes to surrender a firearm or register an unregistered firearm.
- Streamline the current system of firearms licensing to make legitimate firearms ownership less costly and less convoluted.
- Standardise all firearm licenses to a 10-year renewal in line with other personal documentation such as a driver's licence or passport.
- Remove from the NFA all provisions restricting firearms based on subjective appearance and adhere to the measurable categories of functionality as per the Australian Customs import test.
- Give Customs additional funding and authority to search shipping containers entering Australia for illegal guns and illicit drugs.
- Maintain the ban on automatic firearms.

One Nation recognises that some primary producers, professionals and volunteers legitimately use firearms as a tool of their trade for pest management and for personal safety against feral animals.

We will ensure primary producers and feral pest controllers continue to be able to use Categories A, B, C, D and H firearms and recognise the valid needs of sporting shooters to be able to engage in a sport in which Australians have a long and proud history of excelling.

[onenation.org.au](http://onenation.org.au)

# Our supporters and *Inform your vote*

These statements from political parties are a good indicator of the general approach they take to firearms policy. However, always remember that policies are shaped by individual members and senators.

Just because one party is more friendly to shooters in general, doesn't mean your local member or candidate is equally friendly. Likewise, the only way misinformed firearms policies are going to change is if parties elect members and senators who take the time to understand shooting.

The SSAA is happy to work with any political party or parliamentarian on sensible, workable firearms policy. Following are just a few snapshots of current MPs who have over the course of years proved they can be trusted - or not - when it comes to formulating sensible firearms policy.

We strongly urge you to do your own research, contact your local candidates and find out what they *really* think about firearms and shooting, not just the party lines.

## SUPPORTER

### Ian Goodenough MP Liberal Member for Moore, WA

Ian is an active sporting shooter, accredited shooting coach and paid-up life member of the SSAA. He took up competitive shooting at age 11, starting with small bore 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 the 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 community participation will continue to grow.



## SUPPORTER

### Joel Fitzgibbon MP Labor Member for Hunter, NSW

Joel Fitzgibbon represents an electorate which is home to many recreational shooters and shooting clubs. He has long-standing relationships with local rifle, pistol and clay target shooting clubs which provide sporting opportunities for local residents in a safe and responsible way. The Hunter Region boasts a number of high-profile and successful shooting champions including Daniel



Repacholi (pictured).

Mr Fitzgibbon is a former co-chairman of the Parliamentary Friends of Shooting group and remains a supporter of legal and regulated recreational and sports shooting activities. As Shadow Minister for Agriculture, he is acutely aware of the needs of farmers and other landholders who rely on legal firearms to control pests and supports their ongoing right to use them for these purposes. He recognises that organisations such as the SSAA play an important part in the promotion of safe firearms use, education and appropriate conduct.



# detractors

## DETRACTOR

**Jason Wood MP**  
**Liberal Member for La Trobe, VIC**

Jason Wood was the main architect of the misguided trophy hunting ban which was aimed at unethical canned hunting operations, but in reality impacted the legal, sustainable hunting which has been shown to aid in species conservation, protect biodiversity and benefit rural communities.

He has consistently demonised hunters who participate in legal and legitimate conservation efforts both here and overseas, and shown no respect for the men and women who assist with animal population control, put food on the table for their families, have a genuine love of the outdoors and pour millions of dollars each year into regional, interstate and overseas economies.

## DETRACTOR

**Dr Andrew Leigh MP**  
**Labor Member for Fenner, ACT**

Co-chairman of the Parliamentary Friends of Gun Control, Andrew Leigh has consistently repeated rhetoric straight from the talking points of the anti-firearms lobby. He has equated the mere existence of more firearms with homicides and suicides, pushed for more stringent firearms legislation and presented controversial and debated statistics suggesting a causal relationship between the NFA and decreased firearms deaths as 'fact'.

## SUPPORTER

**Ross Vasta MP**  
**Liberal Member for Bonner, QLD**

Ross is patron of the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia at Belmont in Queensland, Vice-Patron of many of the clubs situated within his electorate and is very proud to represent the thousands of members within these clubs.

He's an avid sporting shooter and member of the Parliamentary Friends of Shooting and understands the importance of this sport to our nation. Ross has worked with SSAA Belmont to advocate for and deliver \$20,000 worth of funding for the upgrade of the Belmont club's carpark to support the growing club and its members and will continue to work with them in the future.



## SUPPORTER

**Brian Mitchell MP**  
**Labor Member for Lyons, TAS**

As a member of the Parliamentary Friends of Shooting and Federal Member of a rural electorate, Brian supports the use of firearms in regional Tasmania as tools for pest management and control, as well as for recreational shooting.

Equally, he recognises the critical importance of the safe and responsible use of firearms and the benefit of Australia's strong gun laws and regulations. It is essential we have the structures in place to ensure people using guns are able to access proper education and training on safety, compliance and appropriate use of firearms.





## OTHER FRIENDS OF SHOOTING

Co-chairman of the Parliamentary Friends of Shooting group, Anthony Byrne (Holt, VIC) is also up for re-election this year and a long-time supporter of shooting. A few other members of that group who have been enthusiastic participants in our parliamentary shooting events include Scott Buchholz (Wright, QLD), Ben Morton (Tangney, WA), David Littleproud (Maranoa, QLD), Andrew Hastie (Canning, WA) and Luke Howarth (Petrie, QLD). New Senator Duncan Spender (NSW) has been appointed to fill the Senate vacancy left by former Senator David Leyonhjelm and has pledged his unwavering support for shooters, while independent

Senator Fraser Anning is also a supporter and competition shooter.

While she is not up for election this year, it would be remiss of us if we failed to recognise the ongoing support of Senator Bridget McKenzie. As Minister for Sport and a shooter herself, Senator McKenzie has consistently been a supportive voice in Parliament for the shooting community. Shadow Minister for Sport, Senator Don Farrell, has also been open-minded and willing to engage with the SSAA.



**Top guns of the 45th Parliament, back: Senator James Patterson, Ian Goodenough MP, Senator David Leyonhjelm, Ben Morton MP, Senator Bridget McKenzie and Brian Mitchell MP; front: Andrew Hastie MP and Luke Howarth MP.**