



E-news October 2024 Special State Election Issue

President's Message

As the state election is almost upon us, we asked the most prominent parties to share their positions on recreational shooting and hunting. They eagerly replied and we ask you to take a moment and read their statements to help inform you and your family's vote.

Our Association represents nearly 80,000 proud and passionate members across Queensland. As law-abiding shooters, we have seen in the past how we can be treated by authorities who appear to have little understanding of the difference between legal and illegal firearm users. We are among the most law abiding in the state; we must be to qualify for a firearm's licence and be deemed a 'fit and proper' person.

As a member you have the power to vote politicians in and vote them out. Think about our numbers for a minute - nearly 80,000 members of SSAA Queensland. Many members have partners, with adult voting children. Is our voting power 80,000 or closer to 250,000? That number is further reinforced by the fact that there are more than 200,000 firearms licensees in this state. Either way, we are a passionate group who should be listened to by those who wish to represent us. In Queensland there are about 3,640,000 eligible voters and based on a pool of influence of 250,000, that makes up about seven per cent of the vote. Elections have been won and lost on a much smaller number.

SSAA Queensland won't tell you who to vote for, but we have put the firearm policies of the parties in front of you to allow you to make your own decision. We do thank the politicians who support our chosen recreational sport.

So, this election, talk with your family about who you are voting for and why and cast your vote accordingly.

Hellen Gill

SSAA Queensland President

Queensland State Election – 2024

Helping to inform your vote

To help inform the vote of SSAA Queensland members this state election, we have requested the recreational firearms and hunting policies of the Australian Labor Party, the Liberal National Party, Katter's Australian Party and One Nation. They are listed below and are posted on our website: ssaaqld.org.au



Our Labor Government led by new Premier Steven Miles has delivered historic cost of living relief for all Queenslanders. By making multinational mining companies pay their fair share we have delivered \$1,300 off every Queenslanders power bill, 50 cent public transport fares, cutting rego by 20%, free Kindy, free TAFE, we banned rent bidding, cut stamp duty for first home buyers and delivered \$200 FairPlay vouchers for all Queensland families to help with the cost of kids' sport.

We also have an ambitious plan for Queensland's future - more health workers and more hospitals, more schools, roads, public transport and projects to keep Queenslanders in jobs. We're building more homes for Queenslanders, delivering our nation-leading Energy and Jobs Plan to power our homes and economy with cheap firm renewable energy and we're acting on community safety with more police and crime prevention.

Our Labor Government has a strong track record of supporting the safe and effective management of firearms in Queensland, we have:

- established a permanent firearms amnesty
- provided an additional 50 staff members for the Weapons Licencing Group to reduce processing times
- provided funding to build a new Weapons Licencing Management System due for completion in 2025
- established a Ministerial Firearms Advisory Forum to enable representatives of the weapons industry to provide direct feedback to the Minister for Police and Community Safety and the Queensland Police Service.

A re-elected Miles Labor Government commits to:

- no changes to the Weapons Act 1990 or the Weapons Regulation 2016 without consulting the Ministerial Firearms Advisory Forum
- establishing a limited trial of firearms suppressors informed by workplace health and safety practices and categorisation in other states and territories. This trial will be conducted for a period of one year, and consultation will occur in relation to the trial evaluation.

Further, if re-elected we will work with the Federal Attorney General and other jurisdictions to develop a nationally consistent approach.

In contrast, David Crisafulli and the LNP have outlined no vision other than to cut - projects, jobs, essential services. He is a risk to Queensland and he will cut what matters to Queenslanders, just like the LNP did last time.

Should the Miles Labor Government be re-elected, we look forward to continuing to work with you to continue to do what matters for Queensland.

*Supplied by CAMERON DICK MP Deputy Premier Treasurer
Minister for Trade and Investment*



Please be assured that the LNP supports responsible gun ownership and therefore supports law abiding, licensed gun holders.

During the last parliamentary sitting week of this term, the parliament debated the Community Safety Bill. During the debate, as the Shadow Minister for Police and Community Safety, I tabled amendments to increase the maximum penalty from 10 to 14 years for stealing firearms or ammunition and to create a new offence to target criminals who commit 'drive-by shootings' which have become more commonplace in Queensland. These amendments were designed to ensure the focus is on criminals who steal and unlawfully use guns.

The Labor government cut the debate short and in doing so prevented the LNP from moving the amendments. They were, however, tabled so they are on the public record. Cutting the debate short also denied many members of the opposition the ability to speak on the bill.

Furthermore, the LNP is aware that there are technical issues affecting the Weapons Licensing system. Should the LNP be given the opportunity to govern at the next election investigations into the issues will be conducted.

The LNP commits to ongoing consultation with the SSAA Queensland, and discussing the issues faced by its members.

Provided by Shadow Minister for Police and Community Safety Dan Purdie



Katter's Australian Party – Firearms policy

State government policies that recognise the difference between responsible firearm owners and those who misuse or illegally obtain firearms.

Legislation based on facts, evidence and genuine consultation with law-abiding firearms users, rather than feelings, 'optics' or to be seen to be 'doing something'. An improved, electronic state-based firearms licensing system and firearm register; not a flawed and expensive national firearm register.

Legislation that separates paintball guns, gel blasters, and other 'non-firearms' (including antiques and pellet guns) from 'proper' firearms.

Establishment of hunting on suitable Crown Land, subject to proper oversight and management – much like the highly successful 'R' Licence system in NSW.

Recognition that licensed firearms owners are among the most responsible and law-abiding people in the community and should be treated as such.

KAP strongly supports legitimate firearms users, regardless of whether they are primary producers, hunters, recreational shooters, target shooters, collectors, or occupational users.

Licensed firearm owners in Queensland are among the most responsible, law-abiding citizens who have negotiated the complex and stringent suitability requirements mandated by the state's Weapons Licensing Branch. Some examples of the challenges facing legitimate firearm owners are:

- Despite their compliance, law-abiding firearm owners are often unfairly blamed by some political parties and media outlets for gun related criminal conduct. They face continual government scrutiny and regulatory changes, particularly in the wake of high-profile incidents, which unjustly penalise legitimate firearm users and fail to address the real sources of criminal firearm misuse.

- Primary producers and sports shooters are amongst those most significantly impacted by the stringent weapons licensing regulations in Queensland.
- The Queensland Police Service Weapons Licensing Branch operates under an outdated and inefficient system, with insufficient resources.

In addition to supporting licenced firearm owners to navigate the above challenges, KAP opposes the proposal of a national firearm register. This will cost hundreds of millions of dollars and is unnecessary. Given the existing inefficiencies at the state level, KAP believe that improving the Queensland state firearm registry system's efficiency and accuracy is a far more effective solution than implementing a new national register, which will only inherit the existing issues of the current Queensland registry.

Authorised by S. Major for Katter's Australian Party, 2/321 Sturt Street, Townsville City, QLD 4810



One Nation's Firearms Policy

FIREARMS POLICY – SAFE, FAIR AND RESPONSIBLE

One Nation strongly supports the ability to own and use firearms lawfully and responsibly. We do not consider that owning a firearm, in itself, is wrong or criminal.

One Nation supports Australians participating in sports involving firearms, to use firearms for hunting or recreational shooting, to collect antique and historically significant firearms, and to use firearms in rural areas for pest and stock management.

The Queensland Government is a signatory to the latest National Firearms Agreement (NFA). One Nation considers the NFA to be deeply flawed in that it places unnecessary and draconian restrictions on law-abiding people who legitimately own and use firearms. We consider that stakeholder and public consultation for the current NFA did not effectively include sports and recreational shooters.

One Nation seeks to end discrimination against legitimate firearms owners and users, ensure all stakeholders are fairly consulted in the development of firearms laws and regulations, and make existing laws fairer. We also seek to improve community safety by cracking down on illegal firearms use, with stronger penalties if firearms are used in committing crimes.

OUR POLICIES

Amnesty

- One Nation will seek to provide firearm owners with genuinely safe, state-sponsored mechanisms to voluntarily surrender firearms by:

- legislating a firearms amnesty for any person who wishes to surrender a firearm, or register an unregistered firearm
- examining and reviewing the benefits of a new voluntary firearms buy-back program, remunerating market value to remove unwanted and unregistered firearms out of the community.

Legislative and regulatory reform

Queensland laws and regulations around firearms appear to be designed to strongly discourage legitimate firearm ownership with heavy costs and excessive complexity. In real consultation with affected stakeholders and individuals, One Nation will seek to undertake a range of reforms by:

- streamlining the firearms licence system
- standardising all firearms licences to 10 years before requiring renewal, including for Category H firearms
- supporting realistic interpretations of the ‘genuine reasons’ required to access Category C,D and H firearms
- supporting the use of firearm noise-suppression devices under Category R for pest and stock management in rural settings, and for hunting and feral animal management, to protect against hearing loss for firearms users.

National Firearms Agreement (NFA) review

One Nation will seek to leverage its influence in state and federal parliaments to advocate a review of the National Firearms Agreement (NFA), primarily to promote uniform rules and regulations across Australian states and territories.

Combatting discrimination and promoting responsibility

Lawful ownership and use of firearms should not be subject to any form of state-sanctioned discrimination. One Nation will combat this discrimination and promote responsible firearm ownership by:

- opposing the requirement for genuine antique or historically significant firearms to be registered as it provides no public safety benefit
- amending laws and regulations which allow firearms to be banned based on their appearance, which is unrelated to public safety
- facilitating the participation of minors and juniors under 16 in supervised competition and recreational shooting.

Stronger penalties for unlawful firearm use

One Nation supports lawful and responsible firearm ownership and use, but also supports much stronger laws and penalties around unlawful firearm possession and use – especially in the commission of crimes. We will crack down on this by:

- supporting legislation that increases penalties for crimes in which a firearm has been brandished or used
- supporting stronger border controls and tougher penalties for illegal weapons trafficking.

One Nation will announce further information and associated policies relating to Queensland over the course of the election period.