



FIREARMS POLICY

Regionals are committed to the Constitutional separation of powers of the Commonwealth and the States and ensuring that the separation of responsibilities is maintained. Regionals acknowledge that firearms laws and regulations are the constitutional responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Commonwealth has a role preventing the illegal importation and entry of firearms into Australia.

Since the 1996 Port Arthur “massacre” the Commonwealth has inserted itself into the issue of ‘gun control’ through the National Firearms Agreement as a consequence of prominent politicians’ emotional and personal views rather than good governance. Regionals shall seek to restore good governance with the abolition of the National Firearms Agreement and return to independent State legislation and regulation.

The government focus on firearms restrictions has risen as Australia became more urbanised and the majority of Australians have become detached from the land and natural environment. Just as supermarket has disconnected Australians from the natural food chain, for many their insular, indoors self-absorbed lifestyle has fostered an aversion to firearms ownership in a nation, that historically recognized firearms as a necessary tool and source of recreation, while gun ownership was free of any personal judgement or stigma.

While Regionals believes that the regulation firearms and the licensing of owners is necessary, it supports firearms ownership by law abiding Australian citizens. Additionally, the process and time taken to attain a

firearms license and subsequent purchase of firearms shall not be convoluted as to unnecessarily frustrate applicants.

The Regionals shall:

support firearms ownership by law abiding Australian citizens who require firearms for occupational reasons or regularly engage in volunteer pest control, hunting, target shooting and collecting regardless where they reside, provided they can comply with safe storage requirements.

support the efficient and timely processing of firearms licensing applications and permits to acquire firearms for law abiding Australian citizens without prejudice.

support the access to Category A, B, C and H firearms as a matter of routine, with Category D firearms available without unnecessarily onerous additional restrictions for hunters, target shooters, collectors, volunteer pest controllers, and primary producers.

require that with the exception of applications for Category D firearms, the applicable permit to acquire be issued with the applicant's firearms license.

require all firearms to be categorized on their specifications, functionality, capabilities and capacity regardless of their similarities to other types of firearms.

support the ending of mandatory participation requirements for competition handgun shooters.

support the incentivization of regular attendance of weapon ranges and competition participation for category A (with the exception of double barrel shotguns, paintball guns, air rifles, and powerheads), B, C, D and H weapons.

fund and provide grants to gun clubs and range providers on the same basis as any other sports club or facility.

support the ongoing establishment of shooting ranges to facilitate the safe use of firearms, firearm training and maintain shooters competency.

support firearms range operators in acquiring secure land tenure over their facilities.