

## THE TASMANIAN NATIONALS POSITION ON RECREATIONAL HUNTING AND SPORTS SHOOTING

- Tasmanian Nationals recognize the benefits associated with the recreational hunting and sports shooting activities in Tasmania. These benefits have been clearly explained in the report commissioned by the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania in November 2023 which highlights the economic significance of recreational hunting and shooting.
- According to the report, recreational hunting and sports shooting generated \$88.4 million in Gross State Product (GSP) for 2022, with \$48.0 million in direct contributions and \$40.4 million in flow-on benefits. These activities supported 676 FTE jobs, including 438 direct and 238 flow-on jobs.
- Tasmanian Nationals believe the current Firearms Act Tasmania 1996 requires a number of amendments to ensure it is fair and clear. Ambiguous provisions that create significant confusion need to be clarified for the benefit of a great number of primary producers, sports clubs, recreational shooters from our state or interstate.
- The Tasmanian Nationals believe decisions about firearm restrictions and exemptions should be made by the Parliament, not left solely to the discretion of the Police Commissioner. This power should be returned to elected representatives to ensure transparency and proper public oversight.
- Antique firearms, manufactured before 1900, should not be subject to the same or any restrictions as modern firearms. These antiques firearms are non-functional and held for historical or collectible purposes. We believe it is inappropriate to treat them the same as operable weapons, and they should be regulated separately from modern firearms.
- In relation to **training**, Tasmanian Nationals believe the delivery of 'Approved Courses' should extend from TasTAFE to other accredited organisations, as it is the case in other states. The Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (SSAA) currently has the ability to run the training through RTO's in NSW and VIC. SSAA has been delivering quality safety training in specialised firearms related activities to the government and non-government sectors.
- Tasmanian Nationals believe that a permanent fire arm amnesty process will ensure all the 'Grey Market' firearms have the opportunity to be registered.
- Tasmanian Nationals support the Category C licence also be made available to sports shooters. Tasmanian sports shooters have been significantly disadvantaged in international competitions only able to participate in half of the matches due to the Category C licence restrictions.

- Tasmanian Nationals support our sports shooters being able to participate at international competitions, without restrictions, realising their dreams on the international stage, as proud Tasmanians representing their State.
- Tasmanian Nationals would like to see an exemption under the Firearms Act Tasmania 1996 so that Primary production include **animal welfare** also considering instances when animals are injured on the side of the road.