



COVID-19 POSITION STATEMENT

**FIREARMS DEALERS:
CLASSIFICATION AS
ESSENTIAL SERVICES**



WHAT WE BELIEVE & OUR ACTION PLAN

The Shooters Fishers and Farmers Party, and the broader community, accept that the gradual tightening of restrictions being imposed by Federal and State Governments, and the enforcement thereof, is both necessary and responsible governance to control the spread of COVID-19 in the current state of pandemic.

It is anticipated that further tightening of restrictions may potentially be imposed if the spread of COVID-19 fails to substantially lessen despite the current restrictions and measures in place.

If a broader restriction or temporary closure of retail trade, other than food, medical and pharmaceutical related products, are imposed in future measures implemented by government, the Shooters Fishers and Farmers Party will strenuously seek for Firearms Dealers to be classified as an essential service to provide certain essential items for those persons deemed reliant upon the continued use of firearms for essential purposes.

Regional NSW has returned in parts to agricultural production, after 3 to 4 years of no turnover. Now is not the time to be denying farmers and other people the tools to do their job.

Further, as the pandemic continues to have major economic impacts, firearm owners may need to sell firearms like any other asset to maintain cashflow. People will need access to dealers to be able to conduct these transactions legally.

There is also a question of the thousands of Permits To Acquire firearms(PTA's) that are active. The Shooters Fishers and Farmers Party seeks clarity from the NSW Government on what it proposes to do with these.



OUR ACTION PLAN - Continued

The Shooters Fishers and Farmers Party believe that some persons require or are reliant upon the continued use of firearms during the current pandemic, and include the following persons:

1. Primary producers and rural landholders for the purposes of euthanizing stock, feral pest control and slaughter for personal meat consumption;
2. Professional shooters and professional feral animal controllers for the purpose of feral animal control;
3. Persons professionally employed and required to use firearms, such as but not limited to veterinarians, local government stock officers etc;
4. Recreational shooters for the purpose of hunting and procuring wild game or animals for sustenance for themselves and their immediate families;
5. Owners of firearms who may need to sell them to Dealers under worsening economic conditions
6. Persons making ordinary transactions through Dealers and the Firearms Registry to ensure legal compliance and public safety.

The Shooters Fishers and Farmers Party believe that Firearms Dealers should be classified as an essential retail service and be exempted from future COVID-19 related closure, for the following purposes:

1. Sale of ammunition



OUR ACTION PLAN - Continued

2. Sale of ammunition or reloading equipment or components.
3. Sale of items to safely contain and carry ammunition.
4. Sale of items to clean and maintain firearms
5. Sale of safety and any other items to enable safe operation of firearms
6. Sale of essential firearms and components in the normal fashion

Firearms Dealers are already required to implement stringent measures to comply with other restrictions at their place of business, such as social distancing, and this is expected to continue to allow their essential retail service to the above stated persons for the above stated purposes.