



Law and Order Policy

Law and order continues to be a challenge for Tasmania, particularly among our youth. While crime statistics were slightly down over the last 12 months, the decline was seen more as a result of Covid than a reduction in criminal behaviour. Crimes against property (stealing, burglary, and destruction of property) makes up 78% of all crime in Tasmania. But perhaps more shockingly, armed and aggravated armed robbery makes up 63% of total robberies. Whenever gun crime occurs, talk naturally turns to increasing gun control. However, due to current reporting requirements, it is impossible to tell whether these gun crimes involve legal or illegal firearms. SFF Tasmania has long pushed for full transparency when it comes to reporting firearms offences and believes there needs to be tougher penalties in place for crimes involving firearms. Burglary of firearms should be an indictable criminal offence, and not treated as simple property theft.

If elected, SFF Tasmania will use their vote in parliament to:

- Ensure police stations are accessible and open to the public 24/7, with increased police numbers made available in rural and regional Tasmania.
- Recommend that trained experts perform low-level administrative tasks like conducting firearm storage inspections and spot audits. This would include developing Standard Operating Procedures for storage inspections to ensure a high standard is set and achieved. This would free up police resources to investigate crimes and deal with real emergencies.
- Recommend an Ombudsman be established to manage freedom of information requests to improve government agency accountability and transparency.
- Recommend tougher penalties for illegal protests that put themselves or others at risk of physical harm. This could include criminal charges for individuals and/or removing tax-free status from organisations who promote illegal activity.
- Develop community programs that both educate and engage youth, with the goal to stop youth getting involved in crime in the first place.
- Insist on transparency when reporting on firearms related crime by reporting whether the firearms were legal or illegal, and whether the perpetrator was a licenced firearms owner or not.
- Campaign for tougher measures and sentencing for illegal firearms trading.
- Introduce legislation that enforces mandatory minimum sentences for serious crimes committed with a firearm, to be served consecutively not concurrently.
- Support a second prison facility be built in Tasmania.
- Support family and home protection, and continue to support measures that increase an individual's right to defend themselves and their property.
- Remove legislation that protects criminals over victims.