

# SSANZ News April 2020

[www.sportingshooters.nz](http://www.sportingshooters.nz) SSANZ, PO Box 275, Whangarei 0140

Follow us on Facebook



## Arms Legislation Bill - On Hold

Just like everything else in New Zealand the Bill is on hold as our country grapples with the threat of Covid - 19. It is stuck at the stage of a “committee of the whole house” where MPs and parties seek to introduce their own amendments to the Bill, and we know that NZ First have raised concerns over certain aspects, however with parliament in recess until the end of April there will be no progress until the current lock down is lifted.

## State of Emergency

As you should know a “State of Emergency” has been declared to assist in the enforcement of measures to control Covid - 19, which we agree are necessary. However, this includes additional discretionary powers given to police officers. In SSANZ view it is important that police staff are given clear guidance on how these powers may be used and that the guidance is made public so that we all know where we stand. Already the parliamentary Covid Emergency Response Committee lead by opposition leader Simon Bridges has raised this issue with the Commissioner of Police.

Added to these emergency powers is the alarming addition of a website where Kiwis can do in their neighbours for breaking the lock down rules, another tool used by police states to engender fear and mistrust among the citizenry and keep them under state control. Perhaps now the general public will begin to understand the concerns of LFOs over addition powers granted to police.

## Spare a thought for those less fortunate

If the “experts” are to be believed, when the Covid - 19 lock down is finally lifted the New Zealand economy will be in very poor shape and many people will be unemployed and facing financial ruin.

Here is a suggestion from one of our members; if you are a hunter or fisherman, when the current ban is lifted, please be kind to your neighbours in difficulty, and share part of your bag/catch with those less fortunate. You could even take a neighbour with you and teach them how to gather their own food. This would have the dual effect of showing the public that LFOs are decent caring people and also help increase our numbers.

## Where next for SSANZ - our plan for the future

Our constitution requires us among other matters to “*uphold the rights and privileges of New Zealand firearm owners who are lawfully engaged in the shooting or collecting pastime of their choice*” and also “*to promote or oppose as may be deemed necessary all legislative and other measures which shall or might affect the interests of the members of the Association*”. As you will know from our regular newsletters we have been vigorously opposing what Parliament is doing to us and your Committee has collectively sent hundreds of emails to all parliamentarians and filed individual and official SSANZ submissions on all new legislation.

However, along with the work of fighting against new law your Committee has invested a huge amount of time developing a long term plan to get back what has been so shamefully, disgracefully and undemocratically taken away from us. We will not rest until we have achieved that goal.

Our plan is divided into three stages; short, medium and long term. For the short term we will be focused primarily on building our membership. As we said in a recent newsletter a massive 87% of firearms owners are not members of the SSANZ/COLFO consortium and that is disgraceful. Worse it is known and relentlessly exploited to Government by the anti gun movement. We ask that you line up your mates who are not members and give them a push in the right direction. We need them and they need us. You will know some of these 87%. Remind them of the old adage “*united we stand divided we fall*”. Which is why it is important we LFOs support each other, whatever our shooting interest may be and not condemn those who hold a differing opinion as this will be exploited by our opponents and the media.

In addition we will be looking to coordinate the voting at the next election to ensure that the incoming Government has more respect for firearms owners. On that point we are talking to politicians of all flavours and will closer to the time brief you on our analysis and recommendations.

We also intend in the short term to increase our brand identification, through the sale of merchandise, and a closer liaison with otherwise unaffiliated clubs.

In the medium and longer term you can expect to see a number of other initiatives introduced.

Stay at home and stay safe.

You can still

Join SSANZ today [www.sportingshooters.nz](http://www.sportingshooters.nz)