

SSANZ News June 2020

www.sportingshooters.nz SSANZ, PO Box 275, Whangarei 0140

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Arms Legislation Bill

The Bill had its final debate as a committee of the whole house on Wednesday 17 June, where some small changes proposed by NZ First were included, but those put forward by National and Act were rejected. It passed its third reading on **Black Thursday 18th** by 63 votes to 50, after lack lustre speeches from the government benches and passionate and well considered opposing views from Nation and Act. However the government proved deaf to logic and reason. The Bill will receive Royal assent the following week.

Parliamentary Election - 19 September 2020

Normally an organisation such as SSANZ would be apolitical on the basis that we may have to work with any political party to achieve our goals. In theory then it pays to keep onside with all parties so that you can talk to them and discuss your concerns. After all our membership is drawn from all sectors of society and no doubt hold a wide range of political views.

That all changed in April 2019 when the Labour lead government showed total disdain for the democratic process and a refusal to consult with the firearm community by rushing through legislation(*) that deprived us of semi automatics and many other historic firearms.

While we accept that many of our members will cast their vote in September based on their own personal beliefs and circumstances, SSANZ will only recommend that you support those parties that have demonstrated a willingness to listen to the concerns of the firearm community and develop sensible firearm policies. In order of their demonstrated support for firearm ownership we recommend you support the following:

- Act - has opposed all firearm law changes(*)(**) and developed sensible policy.
• https://www.act.org.nz/firearms_policy
- National - while voting for the first Act* has opposed the second Bill** and developed some sensible policy although still appear to favour full registration.
• https://www.national.org.nz/law_and_order
- NZ First - while voting for the first Act* claimed to have introduced significant beneficial changes to the second Bill** but did not vote against it.
• <https://www.nzfirst.org.nz>

* Arms (Prohibited Firearms, Magazines, and Parts) Amendment Act 2019

** Arms Legislation Bill 2019

When we say support, we don't just mean how you should vote, it needs more commitment than that if you want to bring about change, you need to provide practical support by joining a party and become a practical volunteer helper with things like billboards and letter drops.

Police Vindictive Behaviour Towards Licensed Firearm Owners

Despite the Auditor General, in his report on the gun buy back process, recommending that Police need to build on improving their relationship with firearm owners, we are hearing regular reports of Police cracking down on LFOs using what seem to us as unreasonable excuses for revoking licences.

Remember you have the right to appeal to the District Court against any Police decision affecting your licence under Section 62 of the Arms Act.

One Law For All, not in NZ apparently

It does nothing to boost confidence in Police when we hear of threats of firearm licence revocation for individuals who break Covid 19 rules, at the same time as we see in the media Police turning a blind eye to illegal road blocks, large gatherings by motor bike gangs and protest marchers that exceed the Covid 19 limit for gatherings and ignore social distancing. Where is the natural justice in this?

Police changes at the top

Commissioner Mike Bush has retired after 42 years service and was rewarded with a (CNZM) Companion of New Zealand Order of Merit, he takes up a new role as leader of the Government COVID 19 Operations Centre.

Deputy Commissioner Mike Clements, leader of last years gun buy-back scheme, retires at the end of June after 42 years service.

New Commissioner Andrew Coster took up the role in April, we optimistically look forward to a new era of co-operation between police and the firearm community.

Armed Response Teams will not continue

Police Commissioner Andrew Coster has announced that Armed Response Teams (ARTs) will not be part of the New Zealand policing model in the future. In doing so he stated that he has listened to feedback from the community and he is committed to NZ police remaining a generally unarmed police service. "How the public feels is important - we police with the consent of the public, and that is a privilege". In order to keep Police staff safe, new body armour is being issued, strengthened training, and more tools and tactical options available for front line staff. Evaluation of the ART trial will feed into a wider tactical capability work programme.