

Back The Bush

2026 State Election Policy & Position

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Law, Order & Freedom

Victoria is facing a law-and-order crisis. Crime has become a daily reality for many Victorians, the bail system has become a revolving door for repeat offenders, and youth crime has reached unacceptable levels. At the same time, Victorians are facing an ever-growing intrusion of government into their private lives, their homes and their freedoms. The Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party believes government has a responsibility to protect its citizens — not to control them.

We have consistently stood against the expansion of government power. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party repeatedly voted against the "pandemic powers" and "state of emergency" legislation that handed governments extraordinary powers over the lives of ordinary Victorians.

We will never accept the idea that freedom is something governments can grant, restrict or take away at their convenience.

Victoria needs a government that puts the safety of law-abiding citizens first, holds serious and repeat offenders accountable, and respects the rights, privacy and personal freedoms of every Victorian.

The Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party will fight to restore common sense to Victoria's justice system, protect the freedoms of law-abiding citizens and push back against unnecessary government control.

We will reclaim freedom.

-Oppose any attempts to further increase the age of responsibility for criminal acts.
-Back real "Adult Time - Adult Crime" laws to hand out real punishments
-Make bail a last resort for dealing with criminals
-Give homeowners legal protections for actions while defending their property
-Legalise the use of pepper spray for self-defence

Hunting & Fishing

The Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party is immensely proud to be the only political party in Victoria that has consistently delivered real outcomes for hunters, fishers and outdoor enthusiasts.

We saved duck hunting, delivered Hog Deer hunting to Snake Island, broke a 25-year deadlock to secure recognition of two new hound hunting breeds, and delivered regulations giving hunters greater access to modern technology, including thermal optics. These are not promises for the future — they are results delivered through our representation in the Victorian Parliament.

For recreational fishing, we were the first political party to support the Ramp Rage campaign, demanding that boat registration revenue be invested back into boat ramps, fishing facilities and the infrastructure that anglers actually use. We have fought against the Government's decision to sack fishing inspectors and will continue to stand firmly against the relentless expansion of marine parks that lock recreational fishers out of their traditional fishing grounds.

And our work does not stop there.

Through years of advocacy inside and outside Parliament, we have helped secure a lasting future for hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation through the creation of Fishing, Hunting and Outdoors Victoria (FHOV).

FHOV represents a fundamental shift in how Victoria supports outdoor recreation — bringing hunting, fishing and the broader outdoor community together with a stronger, unified voice. It is a legacy of what can be achieved when people who actually use and care for Victoria's public land, waterways and outdoors have a political voice in Parliament.

The Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party will continue to fight to protect and expand access to Victoria's great outdoors, defend the traditions and freedoms of recreational hunters and fishers, and ensure future generations can enjoy the same opportunities we have today.

-Introduce a “Right to hunt, fish and gather” bill
-Protect the game status of deer in Victoria, including Hog deer research and resilience
-Establish a “Game license” trust, ensuring game license fees can be used for game hunting facilities, like the recreational fishing license trust
-Improve access to smaller lakes, dams and waterbodies for fishing
-Change public safety regulations to make a 100m restricted zone around duck hunters
-Introduce bow hunting for carp in Victoria
-Continue to protect Duck Hunting into the future
-Expand hound hunting into more National and State Parks
-Introduce pensioner discounts for game licenses
-Ensure the budget commitment for high country hunting huts is maintained
-Continue work to get our “Hunters for the Hungry” program in place, an Australian first
-Change to rules to make FHOV the land manager responsible for state game reserves

Regional Roads & Transport

Victoria's roads are an absolute mess. Major freight routes are crumbling, regional roads are increasingly like goat tracks, and potholes are becoming a serious safety hazard. Long-suffering regional communities are being subjected to incessant truck noise, congestion and pollution while promised freight bypasses are repeatedly delayed, deferred and kicked further down the road. Regional Victorians deserve roads that are safe, reliable and capable of supporting the communities and industries that keep Victoria moving.

Victoria's rail network is heavily weighted towards Melbourne. Close to $50 billion has been committed to suburban rail projects while regional passengers continue to endure cancellations, extended maintenance disruptions, unreliable services and inadequate connections. For too many regional Victorians, catching a train is no longer a reliable way to get where they need to go.

The Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party believes regional Victoria must stop being treated as an afterthought. We will fight for the roads, railways and freight infrastructure regional communities need — because Victoria's transport system should serve all Victorians, not just those living in Melbourne.

-Prioritize resurfacing work on our major highways, freight means food.
-Identify B and C class roads for upgrades.
-Properly resource councils to maintain their roads to a statewide standard
-Prioritise freight bypasses around towns, especially Kilmore, Beaufort, Shepparton and deliver on the promised Taralgon Bypass.
-Initiate an inquiry into the failure of the Murray basin rail project and the lack of passenger rail access to Mildura.
-In times of drought, provide support for freight vehicles to travel with feed and fodder

Firearms

Since 1992, the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party has stood steadfastly in Parliament representing Victoria's law-abiding firearms community. We have a proven record of delivering for licensed shooters: in 2015 we successfully negotiated the introduction of shooting sports facility grants; in 2016 we were the only party to fight against the Adler reclassifications; in 2018 we introduced legislation to expand access to sound moderators; during the COVID-19 pandemic we successfully secured a two-year pause to mandatory pistol shoots; and in 2026 we secured funding to seal the road to SSAA Eagle Park.

We have ALWAYS voted against EVERY SINGLE anti-gun bill brought before the Victorian Parliament. We will NEVER abandon law-abiding shooters, and we will NEVER say one thing to the firearms community and then vote another way in Parliament. Unlike the coalition, our commitment to licensed shooters does not change when the political pressure is turned up.

Victoria's licensed, law-abiding shooters deserve respect — not suspicion, discrimination or constantly changing goalposts. They deserve world-class shooting facilities, investment in their sport and a government that recognises their contribution to Victoria. The Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party will continue to stand between law-abiding shooters and governments that seek to restrict their rights, and we will fight for safe, accessible and high-standard shooting facilities across Victoria.

-Repeal the changes made by the 2026 Firearms amendment bill, as voted on by Labor, Liberals, Nationals and the Greens
-Fight against illogical numerical caps, calibre restrictions and reclassifications
-Reintroduce our bill to remove firearm appearance laws.
-Impose mandatory sentences for serious firearm related crimes.
-Change the Notice of Received Instruction rules to allow NORI's to reset every 5 years.
-Launch an inquiry into our firearm laws to see how they prevent firearm crime.
-Adequately resource the Licensing Regulation Division to clear the 10,000 strong licensing backlog.
-Introduce pensioner discounts for firearm licenses and PTA's
-Get rid of the restrictions on Gel blasters and Airsoft toys.
-Reintroduce the Shooting Sports Facilities Program, as spearheaded by the SFF in 2015
-Advocate for a multi discipline shooting sports complex in the east of the metropolitan area.
-Reintroduce our bill to expand access to sound moderators for firearms
-Ensure firearm owners, organisations and industry stakeholders are adequately represented to government with a legislated body.

Farming, Agriculture & Native Forestry

Victoria's farmers are under constant pressure from the relentless expansion of unwanted power infrastructure, activist campaigns, excessive regulation, rising taxes, escalating water costs and a Government that too often fails to understand the realities and complexities of modern farming. Our farmers feed Victoria and the nation, yet they are increasingly being treated as an obstacle rather than an essential part of our economy and regional communities. Productive agricultural land must be protected, and farmers must have the certainty they need to invest, employ and continue producing.

Victoria's sustainable native forestry industry was also abandoned after workers and communities were promised a smooth transition. Timber towns that were once thriving centres of regional life have been left to deal with the consequences of dismantling an industry that supported local jobs, businesses and entire regional economies. The Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party believes regional communities should not be sacrificed to satisfy political agendas, and that sustainable industries must be given a genuine future.

The Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party has always stood with Victoria's farming and regional communities, and we always will. We will fight for farmers' right to work their land, defend productive agriculture from unnecessary interference, support sustainable industries and demand that governments understand the real-world consequences of their decisions. If you want to protect Victoria's farms, forests and regional communities, you need a voice in Parliament that stands with them.

-Drop the "Emergence Services Volunteer Levy"
-Reintroduce the sustainable native forestry industry with better legal protections against green lawfare.
-Change the rules so farmers will have the final say on what happens to their land.
-Protect farmers and agriculture from activist agendas.
-Increase funding toward biosecurity
-Promote recreational hunters as a first line defense against invasive species
-Oppose green groups purchasing productive farmland with the intent on turning it into pseudo national parks"
-Review native vegetation laws, a balance can be found.

Public Land Management & Access

CLOSE TO ONE MILLION HECTARES UNLOCKED

Since being elected in 2014, the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party has unlocked close to one million hectares of Victorian public land for access and recreation. This is what our core principle — "Well-managed land open to the public" — means in practice. We have never voted for the creation of more national parks, and we will continue fighting to ensure Victoria's public land is managed for the benefit of the people who own it.

Public land management cannot be dictated by a "lock it up and leave it" mentality. Hunters, campers, four-wheel drivers, bushwalkers, prospectors, firewood collectors, fishers and other outdoor recreationists deserve safe, practical and affordable access to public land. We will continue to fight against unnecessary closures, locked gates and restrictions that progressively shut Victorians out of their own public estate.

Victoria faces an ever-increasing threat from bushfires, while poorly planned energy infrastructure, commercial interests and inadequate land management place further pressure on our public land. The Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party will always defend Victoria's public land and fight for active management, responsible access and a public estate that remains open to the people who own it.

-Manage the bushfire preparedness of our public land in-line with the findings of the 2009 Black Saturday Bushfires Royal Commission.
-Repeal the classification of National Parks Like Wombat-Lerdederg, Barmah, Buangor and the Pyrenees
-Fight against any more national parks.
-Protect crown land river frontage access
-Return seasonal cattle grazing in alpine areas using new E-collar technology
-Expand seasonal residential firewood collection into National or State Parks where appropriate.
-Ensure public land managers use ground based recreational shooters as the first line of defense in managing invasive species, with helicopter culls as the last resort.
-Open further state and national parks to recreational deer hunting where appropriate
-Expand the availability of appropriate creeks and rivers for recreational prospecting.

Regional Health

Victoria's regional health system is plagued by inefficiency, mismanagement and a lack of investment. Too often, regional Victorians must travel hundreds of kilometers to Melbourne or larger regional centers to access the specialist care they need. Where you live should not determine the healthcare you receive.

Our ambulance service is struggling to meet demand, hospital ramping is rife, and in too many regional communities a single ambulance is expected to cover hundreds of square kilometers. Regional hospitals also struggle to attract and retain doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals. This is not good enough.

The Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party will fight for better healthcare closer to home, properly resourced regional hospitals, stronger ambulance coverage and improved access to specialists. Regional Victorians deserve the same access to quality healthcare as those living in Melbourne.

-Expand specialist equipment into regional base hospitals
-Ensure an appropriate nurse-to-patient ratio
-Increase funding into regional and rural Ambulance services
-Increase funding for accessible emergency defibrillation machines, especially in rural areas
-Initiate programs to attract and retain GP's and specialists into rural and regional areas
-Launch a parliamentary inquiry into regional and rural emergency departments and how they can improve their services to the public.

Animal Welfare

The Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party is not a party of animal cruelty — we abhor it. We believe animals should be treated humanely and that genuine animal welfare must be based on practical outcomes, sound science and responsible management, not ideology.

There is a significant difference between animal welfare and animal rights. While we are proudly a party that represents hunters, hunting is about responsible and humane harvesting, not cruelty. Hunters strive to make every shot as effective as possible, because a wounded animal is the last thing any responsible hunter wants. The same principle applies across farming, animal husbandry, fishing and other activities where responsible management is sometimes misrepresented as cruelty.

The Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party will always defend legitimate, evidence-based animal welfare while opposing the ideology of the animal rights lobby when it seeks to restrict lawful activities without regard for practical outcomes. We believe animal welfare should be about reducing suffering, responsible management and humane treatment — not ideology or political theatre.

-We will continue to fight the animal rights agenda in Parliament
-We will also support and work with genuine animal welfare organisations
-Reduce overburdening regulations and restrictions on legitimate animal breeders.
-Ensure any refresh of POCTA laws supports legitimate animal welfare based on science and not the radical animal rights agenda.
-Remove RSPCA's inspectorate powers, hand enforcement back to the state and revoke its taxpayer funding.
-Oppose the illogical "trap-neuter-release" policy for feral animals
-Continue support for no-kill shelters and expanded adoptions.
-Initiate an inquiry into the animal rescue sector.
-Revoke all taxpayer funding to Wildlife Victoria and any other animal "rescue" group that advocates for radical anti-hunting policies.

Energy & Resource Extraction

Reliable and affordable energy is critical to a strong economy. Decades of poor energy policy have left Victoria facing a grid that needs serious modernisation, while the rapid rollout of alternative energy generation and storage has been poorly planned and disconnected from the communities expected to host it. Victoria needs an energy system that is reliable, affordable and capable of supporting industry, agriculture and regional communities.

The Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party believes alternative energy generation and storage can have a place in Victoria's energy future, but projects must be properly planned and integrated with the communities around them. The same applies to resource extraction: Victoria should not shut the door on industries that create jobs, investment and regional economic activity without properly considering their benefits and impacts.

You cannot take communities on the journey while ignoring them. Regional Victorians deserve genuine consultation, transparency and a meaningful say over projects that fundamentally change their communities, farms and landscapes. The Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party will fight for an energy and resources policy that puts reliability, affordability, regional jobs. The environment and the rights of local communities at its centre.

-Support the use of nuclear power as a safe, viable, cheaper and generationally transformational change to power generation
-Oppose renewable energy zones in agricultural areas
-Implement the local gas reserve, lowering prices and ensuring Victorians can heat and power their homes
-Support the removal of the moratorium on conventional gas extraction
-Continue to support the ban on fracking in Victoria
-Oppose in-ground carbon sequestration, locking up agricultural land
-Ensure rare-earth mineral extraction is in-line with the highest environmental controls and complete rehabilitation locked in.
-Advocate for new electricity infrastructure to run transmission lines underground, reducing their visual impact and preventing issues relating to bushfires and farming activity

Regional Education

Victoria's regional schools are too often treated as an afterthought. Students in the bush deserve the same opportunities as students in Melbourne, yet many regional communities face teacher shortages, ageing facilities, limited subject choices and fewer pathways into vocational training and further education. Families should not have to move to Melbourne or send their children away from home simply to access a quality education. Schools should also be focused on actually teaching children, not pushing political agendas.

The Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party believes regional education needs investment that reflects the unique challenges of distance and smaller communities. We need to attract and retain quality teachers, invest in modern school facilities and technology, and expand access to vocational education, apprenticeships and practical pathways into local industries. Parents should have confidence that their children are receiving a quality education focused on literacy, numeracy, critical thinking and the skills they need for their future.

A child's postcode should never determine their future. The Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party will fight for properly resourced regional schools, better educational opportunities and an education system that puts students, teachers and learning ahead of political ideology. Regional Victoria deserves schools that prepare young people for life, work and further education — without forcing families to leave their communities to find those opportunities.

-Targeted funding increases for regional and rural Victorian Schools
-Increase programs to recruit and retain teachers in schools
-Oppose the "safe schools" program, let kids be kids
-Support school camp programs, kids need outdoor education
-Improve and promote access to agricultural education, especially in metropolitan schools
-Continue to develop the VCAL program and encourage VCAL students into trade and agricultural pathways.
-Work on adding a "field to fork" portion of the curriculum so student know where food actually comes from.
-More agricultural focused TAFE in regional and rural Victoria.
-Ensure principals have the backing and resources to deal with problem students.

Water

Since the implementation of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan, water management has gone backwards. Opaque federal water buy-backs and changing ownership patterns have distorted the market, making water increasingly unaffordable for farmers. The consequences are being felt across farms, regional communities and the businesses that depend on agriculture.

The Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party has fought for transparency and accountability in the management of Victoria's most precious resource. We forced the Victorian Parliament to require greater transparency around water ownership by Members of Parliament and senior public servants. Those making decisions about water should be subject to the same scrutiny as everyone else.

Victoria continues to do much of the heavy lifting while farmers, regional communities, lakes, wetlands and dams bear the consequences. It is time to restore equity, affordability and transparency to Victoria's water system. The SFF will continue fighting for farmers, regional communities and a fairer approach to managing Victoria's water.

-Enforce full transparency in water ownership, focusing on the decision makers
-Build more dams and water storages.
-Audit government held water
-Oppose federal government buybacks
-Prioritise domestic and agricultural water in times of drought
-Review catchment authorities wetland management cycles