

How we're Victoria's powerful voice



**SHOOTERS FISHERS
and FARMERS PARTY**

www.vicshootersfishersandfarmers.org.au

Authorised by Jeff Bourman, 265 Little Collins St, Melbourne VIC 3000



Animal Welfare

Preamble

There is a significant difference between Animal Rights Groups and Animal Welfare Organisations. The Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party understands the mindset of both, and is clear that it cannot endorse the views of Animal Rights Groups. We fully endorse and support Animal Welfare Organisations, including the responsible involvement of animals as human companions, for purposes such as food, clothing and research conducted for the benefit of both humans and animals.

We believe in the principle of ownership and understand that animals need be always treated appropriately and with respect, animal cruelty is unacceptable. We do not accept misinformed ideologies stating there is no distinction between animals and humans, or that animal ownership is exploitation and tantamount to slavery

The animal rights movement is not about animal welfare, it exploits the love of animals underpinning its true long-term goal to end human ownership and involvement with all animals.

Position

- Fight the Animal Rights agenda in Parliament
- Support and work with law-abiding animal welfare organizations
- Remove overburdening restrictions on law abiding breeders and promote those responsible breeders doing the right thing
- Protect hunting, animal husbandry, fishing and farming in the refresh of Animal Welfare laws
- Remove the RSPCA's powers of prosecution, transfer it to the state and introduce legislation to enforce transparency and accountability in animal-based organizations receiving taxpayer money.
- Continue support for legitimate animal competition and shows including Rodeos.
- Oppose any trap/neuter/release program for pest animals
- Ensure that animal welfare groups have equal standing alongside animal rights groups with statutory authorities
- Support no-kill shelters and promote the expansion of adoption programs
- allow adequate time to remedy animal welfare breaches and work to promote a clear and transparent appeals process
- support new animal codes of practice to reduce overburdening requirements



Victoria's Powerful Voice

Regional Roads, Transport and Rail

Preamble

Victoria's regional roads are crumbling, our rail network is outdated, massive amounts of taxpayer money is being wasted on tokenistic efforts. Tracks in our vast areas of public land are often inaccessible, making access for emergency services and recreational users impossible. We need to work smarter, the inability to quickly move freight across road and rail is holding back our agricultural sectors and road user safety is being jeopardized.

Position

- Work to prioritize improvements on "B" and "C" class roads to handle larger vehicle loads.
- Investigate where road stability and landslip mitigation works can be fast tracked to limit damage and delays to our road network.
- Initiate an independent inquiry into the failures of the Murray Basin Rail Project and investigate what can be done to fast track the remaining works to be completed.
- Work with councils and road authorities to improve the responses to minor road damage
- In times of natural disaster or drought; permit heavy vehicles to carry OD loads of feed and fodder for livestock
- Support a new passenger rail service to Mildura



We're Victoria's Powerful Voice

Local Government

Preamble

Local Governments need to be brought back into line, no longer can councilors consider their positions as little fiefdoms able to rule with impunity.

Position

- Return councils to the 3 “R’s”; rates, roads and rubbish, no more should councils establish “climate emergencies” or similar declarations outside of a local council’s remit.
- Limit a council’s ability to regulate lawful recreational activities on private land.

Law & Order

Preamble

Law and Order is an important community wide issue which needs careful consideration to ensure the rights of the community and victims come before the rights of the offenders.

Position

- Support the introduction of non-lethal items for self defence
- Continue to oppose Pandemic related Mandates and Lockdowns.
- Review of sentencing practices to ensure that the punishment is in line with community expectations.
- Oppose any attempt to raise the age of criminal responsibility.



We're Victoria's Powerful Voice

Public Land Management & Access

Preamble

The Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party believe that land management over the last few decades have been an unmitigated disaster, the breakaway from informed decisions based on science and experience has been thrown aside to ill-informed decisions based on biased emotions. Overwhelmingly, we have seen a rise in the worst outcome; new parks and bushfires. SFFP will push for a fundamental change to land management.

Position

- We have one simple position; public land is to always remain open and accessible for the public
- SFFP will reject any proposals for new parks in Victoria
- Introduce a motion calling for a permanent moratorium on any new parks or restrictive land classifications
- Work to make current recreational activities allowed in state forests retrospectively allowed in appropriate parks
- SFFP will push for government to return to the targets of the 2009 Black Saturday Bushfires royal commission
- Advocate for a return to alpine cattle grazing
- SFFP will pursue a review of all public land tenures, their access and recreational activity status including bird sanctuaries, state game reserves, wetlands and parks with emphasis on improving access to recreational activities
- Protect recreational miners rights.
- Helicopter culls are a gross misspend of public funds; we will push for recreational hunters to be the first port of call with helicopters used for more inaccessible areas.
- Ensure that firewood collection in state forests is made far more accessible and integrated into bushfire management strategies



We're Victoria's Powerful Voice

Hunting & Fishing

Preamble

Hunting & Fishing in Victoria has never been more under threat, since 2014 SFFP have been at the forefront of this defense in parliament, taking the fight to the government and the activists. Our dedication to improving and protecting recreational hunting & fishing in Victoria makes us a powerful voice.

Position

- Transfer management of State Game Reserves to the Game Management Authority
- Introduce a bill to enshrine the "right to hunt and gather" into the Victorian Constitution
- Continue to support the improvement of fishing facilities and boat ramps
- Improve and clearly define access to state game reserves
- Enforce transparency in the distribution of hunting and fishing license fees and boat registrations
- Give the GMA a role in promoting sustainable hunting
- Unwavering support for recreational duck hunting
- Protect the game status of deer in Victoria
- Introduce bow fishing for invasive fish species
- Push for improved access to sound moderators for hunters & recreational shooters
- Pressure government to provide pensioner discounts for hunting licenses
- Continue to campaign for more public land to be made available for hunting & fishing
- Engage with charities to take-up meat from recreational hunters and fishers to improve the viability of recreationally harvested meat in the commercial sector
- Continue to support and advocate for hound hunters



We're Victoria's Powerful Voice

Health

Preamble

The past 3 years have exposed the clear flaws in our health systems, the divide between metropolitan and regional health services cuts deep. SFFP wants to see a massive re-investment in regional health where people living in regional and rural Victoria can access the same benefits those people in metropolitan Melbourne regularly enjoy.

Position

- Promote the expansion of better health and aged care facilities in rural and regional areas.
- Expand specialist equipment into regional Hospitals
- Attract and retain more GP's to rural and regional areas
- Expand regional training of nurses and GP's
- Re-invest into regional and rural ambulance services
- Continue support for telehealth
- Improve working conditions and pay with a focus on experienced doctor and nurse retention to improve shortages across Victoria.
- Push for an expansion of defibrillation machines to a wider range of locations/ clubs etc



We're Victoria's Powerful Voice

Education

Preamble

Education in Victoria needs to take a step back and re-evaluate its position. Management of schools and curriculum need a revamp, looking at the future of industry and technology moving forward.

Position

- Targeted increase of funding to schools, particularly regional educational settings from Early Learning Centers through to Tertiary Institutions.
- Incentives for teachers to work in rural and regional areas
- Improve working conditions and pay with a focus on experienced teacher retention to improve teacher shortages across Victoria.
- Oppose the “safe schools” program, let kids be kids
- Introduce a proposal on a ‘field to fork’ program to teach high school students how their food is grown, harvested, processed and delivered.
- Improve access to agricultural education in TAFE, especially in metropolitan areas.
- Support programs and initiatives that will increase literacy rates amongst indigenous and at-risk young people.
- Support the Victorian curriculum to allow Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to continue to develop, implement and evaluate community valued blends of traditional culture, language, and ceremonial life with the Victorian curriculum.
- Support the development and expansion of the TAFE system and oppose any funding cuts, especially in regional and rural Victoria
- Make curriculum content available to parents for review
- Even out funding discrepancies between Private, Catholic and Government Schools and ensure schools are receiving 100% of funding recommended in the Gonski review.
- Ensure all schools have access to qualified psychologists and counsellors to combat the growing mental health crisis effecting our students
- Work to ensure the recent change in the EBA does not result in a decrease of extracurricular camps, excursions and sport to ensure all students have access to these important programs.



We're Victoria's Powerful Voice

Energy & Mining

Preamble

Policy failures over the past 30 years have left Victoria struggling to meet its energy requirements, the green movement is solely to blame. As the cost of living rises, families are needing ever increasing support just to heat and cool their homes. SFFP wants a back-to-basics approach to how our energy is produced.

Position

- Support the investigation of nuclear power as a safe, viable, cheap and generationally transformational alternative to power generation
- Promote new power plants using clean coal technology
- Oppose in-ground carbon sequestration that locks up agricultural land for no other uses
- Support a removal the moratorium on conventional gas extraction
- Scrutinise new power infrastructure that impacts agricultural land
- Push government to implement a local gas reserve system, forcing gas companies to reserve enough gas for local use at the lowest price
- Push government to upgrade our power distribution networks to reduce the chances of bushfires due to infrastructure failure



We're Victoria's Powerful Voice

Agriculture/Farming/Forestry

Preamble

The agriculture and farming sector is riddled with green tape and the sustainable forestry industry is under attack from misinformed activists. Their criminal protests and persistent lawfare have disrupted thousands of jobs. Farm invasions from criminal organizations have farmers calling out for harsher trespass laws, and the encroachment of suburbia have farmers screaming out for protection.

Position

- Introduce a bill to enshrine the "right to farm" in the Victorian Constitution
- Save regional jobs and push to immediately cancel the governments phase out of native timber harvesting and resume in-line with current RFA's
- Call to remove the 200m exclusion zone rule currently choking the native timber industry
- Re-introduce our farm invasions bill, imposing harsher penalties for activists who trespass on farms, logging coups, hindering legal activities
- Give farmers a right to veto mining and extractive activities on their land
- Call for renewed action on invasive weed control
- Promote recreational hunters to control pests on farms
- Review native vegetation laws
- Fight activist misinformation
- Oppose green groups buying large farming properties with the intent on turning them into pseudo "national parks"



We're Victoria's Powerful Voice

Firearms

Preamble

We have been leading the fight for firearm owners since 1995 and we have never stood down in our fight for a fair go. We are the only party firearm owners can trust to do the right thing.

Position

- Re-introduce our bill to remove firearm appearance laws
- Continue to fight further restrictions on firearm owners
- Promote harsher sentences for malicious firearm crimes
- Abolish the Notice of Received Instruction (NORI)
- Re-introduce our bill to improve access to suppressors.
- Renew our call for a parliamentary review of firearm laws and its focus on public safety and its evidence on tackling crime
- Work with government and agencies to provide pensioner discounts for firearm licenses and PTA's
- Ensure fair representation for firearm owners and adequate consultation in matters relating to firearm laws
- Promote access to "gel blasters" & "airsoft" which are essentially toys
- Attract more junior shooters to the shooting sports (school programs etc)
- Continue support for a large shooting facility in Melbourne's Metropolitan East



We're Victoria's Powerful Voice

Water Management

Preamble

The Murray Darling Basin Plan (MDBP) has failed; SFFP has been the champions of bringing back equity and accountability in the system. We are the true voice for those communities ravaged by water mismanagement and are dedicated to rooting out corruption.

Position

- Enforce full transparency in water ownership, focusing on politicians and government bureaucrats
- Promote the building of more large dams and water storages
- Employ standardized metering and inspections across all irrigation areas and catchments
- Audit government held environmental water and its effectiveness in maintaining a healthy environment
- Shift ownership of water back to landowners
- Review governmental transfers of water
- Oppose water buy backs
- Prioritize stock and domestic water in times of drought
- Promote regular water flows into wetlands and regional lakes to stop defacto animal activism



We're Victoria's Powerful Voice