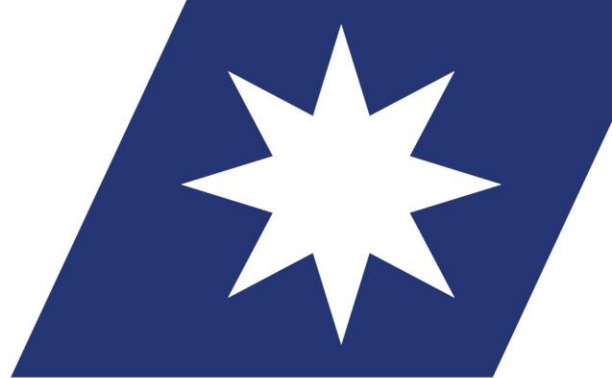


SHANE KNUTH

Katter's Australian Party

Member for Hill



MEDIA RELEASE

Member for Hill Shane Knuth said that yesterday's announcement by the Minister for Agriculture was all huff and puff as primary producers are still refused access to ammunition to control feral animals.

Mr Knuth said there was a huge gap in the current exemptions list with the government failing to include RE-1 and, the most common occupational licenses, OC 1-5.

Yesterday, Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries Mark Furner announced that licensed armourers and licensed dealers would now be able to provide essential services to primary producers and other industries which rely on weapons to do their jobs he said.

Mr Knuth said primary producers needed access to firearms to manage feral pests on their properties, but the current list of exemptions only applied to about 5 per cent of producers.

"We have had primary producers who have gone in to purchase ammo, with an occupational license, but have been told that they do not qualify according to Queensland Health's so called list of exemptions," Mr Knuth said.

"The ridiculous part about it is that we have primary producers with an occupational license, that border national parks, that can't get ammunition to control feral dogs.

"We have many professional aerial shooters who are in the same boat."

He said the government needed to act now and change the exemptions list.

"A very simple solution and a must is for the government to include all OC 1-5 licenses and all primary producers and feral pest controllers who carry the RE-1 licenses," Mr Knuth said.

"Guns and ammunition are a key part of everyday life on a property to help reduce the risk of disease and feral animals.

"If a farmer currently run out of ammunition and they trapped a feral dog, what are they meant to do? Club it over the head with a brick?"

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Media Contact – Bronwyn Wheatcroft, 0401 400 599