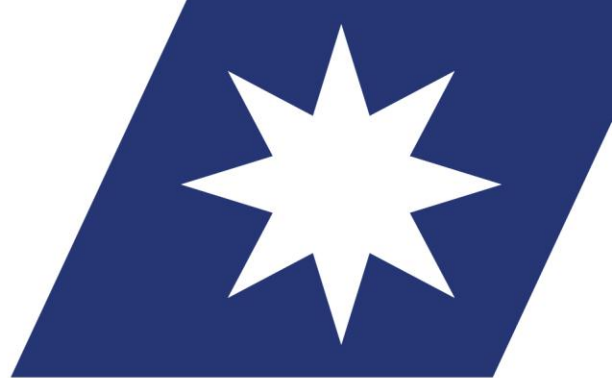


SHANE KNUTH

Katter's Australian Party

Member for Hill



MEDIA RELEASE

WIN FOR FIREARM DEALERS

Member for Hill Shane Knuth said firearm dealers have had a big win after the Queensland Government backed down on forcing gun stores to close however, they are now classed as an essential service.

The Chief Health Officer has stated that licensed armours and dealers may store, modify, repair, acquire or supply weapons and ammunition to specific groups after forcing them to close earlier this week.

"I'm glad common sense has prevailed, but I am disappointed that they have not included the recreational aspects to this as they already have social distancing aspects in place," Mr Knuth said.

"Licensed Armours and Dealers provide farmers, graziers, feral pest control workers and hunters in Queensland with the tools to control feral pests which are costing this state hundreds of millions of dollars.

"The agriculture industry is a \$15 billion primary industry which includes the banana industry which uses guns to shoot feral pigs in an effort to control the spread of Panama disease from property to property."

He said it was frustrating when politics was used to close all gun stores across the state while decision makers cheered on mass gatherings during the local election.

Mr Knuth also pointed out it was over kill to rule out recreational shooting.

"When it comes to pistols, clay target and being granted permission to walk down a river where you can shoot a feral pig this can all be achieved while easily abiding by the current social distancing laws," Mr Knuth said.

Earlier this week, Mr Knuth wrote a letter to the Premier about his utter disgust over the decision by the State Government to shut down firearm dealers in the state.

"It was completely unnecessary to shut down an already heavily regulated industry," he said.

"The new regulation would only have affected a farmer's ability to manage their land at a time when agriculture is considered an essential service in this pandemic."

-ENDS-