

Hon. Peter WALSH MP

MEMBER FOR MURRAY PLAINS
LEADER OF THE NATIONALS

496 High Street, Echuca VIC 3564
Ph 03 5482 2039 or 1300 467 906
peter.walsh@parliament.vic.gov.au
www.peterwalsh.org.au
@PeterWalshMP /PeterWalshMP



11 November 2022

Attention: Barry Howlett
Manager - Communications
SSAA Victoria
Unit 3, 26 Ellingworth Parade
Box Hill VIC 3128

Dear Mr Howlett,

SUBJECT: LIBERALS AND NATIONALS RESPONSE TO SSAA 2022 ELECTION PLATFORM

Thank you for sharing your *Shooting and Hunting in Victoria 2022-2026* platform with the Liberals and Nationals. Our parties recognise the role of Sporting Shooters Association of Australia Victoria (SSAA), Field and Game Australia (FGA) and the Australian Deer Association (ADA) as Victoria's peak shooting and hunting organisations.

As the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and Leader of The Nationals, I am pleased to provide the below responses to your election priorities.

Improved management of Victoria's State Game Reserves

The Liberals and Nationals recognise the success of existing arrangements at Gippsland's The Heart Morass and the Bellarine Peninsula's Lake Connnewarre Wetlands Reserve.

If elected to government on November 26, we will transfer management of State Game Reserves (SGRs) from Parks Victoria to the Game Management Authority (GMA) where the GMA are better suited to managing an SGR for the benefit of the environment and the Victorian community.

A new Action Plan for Sustainable Hunting and Game Management

The Liberals and Nationals support the rights of Victorians to engage in lawful activities, including under the current arrangements for hunting. To support sustainable hunting and game management, we are committed to the above-mentioned transfer of State Game Reserves (SGRs) from Parks Victoria to the

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Game Management Authority (GMA) where the GMA are better suited to managing an SGR for the benefit of the environment and the Victorian community.

We will work with stakeholders like yourselves in government to consider a new Action Plan for Sustainable Hunting and Game Management.

We have no intention of changing the game status of any current game species.

Better Shooting Sports Facilities

The Liberals and Nationals will continue the Shooting Sports Facilities Program with an additional \$12 million over four years. As part of that program, the Eastern Shooting Complex and the Willowmavin Complex can receive support.

The Liberals and Nationals know that safer country roads save lives. Gifkins Road, Little River, is a local road and managed by the City of Greater Geelong. We have committed to re-establishing the successful Country Roads & Bridges Program to provide an annual \$1.5 million in support to each rural and regional council for managing their local roads and bridges. In total, this will provide a \$288 million investment over the next four years.

An Adaptive Harvest Model for Waterfowl

The Liberals and Nationals will continue the implementation of an Adaptive Harvest Management (AHM) approach for waterfowl and work with the Game Management Authority, industry stakeholders and experts to ensure that AHM is scientifically sound, managed appropriately, and funded appropriately.

Better firearm regulation and legislation

The Liberals and Nationals will continue the parliamentary Victorian Firearms Consultative Committee (VFCC) with the appointment of the Chair being subject to normal parliamentary processes. We will require the VFCC to meet regularly.

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A showcase for Victoria's shooting athletes to the world

The Liberals and Nationals have been very supportive of having shooting events included in the Victoria 2026 Commonwealth Games. We will work with relevant sporting bodies to nominate an appropriate venue for those events, such as Eagle Park Range, as part of our commitment to delivering Victoria 2026.

For Geelong, we have already committed to moving the opening and closing ceremonies to GMHBA Stadium. In contrast, Labor have announced the MCG as the venue for those events.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Peter Walsh'.

The Hon Peter Walsh MP
Deputy Leader of the Opposition
Leader of The Nationals
Shadow Minister for Agriculture