

# Firearm Policy Briefing (July 2018)

## Introduction:

New Zealand has very low gun crime.

This has remained consistently low – over decades – despite significant population increases.

Literally 99% of the nation's firearm offences are committed by those without a firearm license.

The main source of the problem is recidivism.

*Examples: ONE offender has 46 separate firearm convictions. Over fifty have been convicted of threatening Police with a firearm more than once. One offender has nine convictions for this. Another has nine separate convictions for possessing an illegal firearm.*

*Examples: Our worst gun theft was perpetrated by an offender serving a non-custodial sentence for their LAST firearm crime. Fully 9% of our gang members have been charged with five or more firearm offenses.*

Criminals use guns for three reasons:

### **1. They want to.**

*They enable them to control drug & extortion territories worth tens of millions of dollars.*

### **2. They can afford to act on their desire.**

*Police have just estimated that Christchurch alone produces twenty million dollars in gang revenue from the sale of meth each year.*

### **3. They have no fear of acting on their desire.**

*IF a criminal is caught (Only eight in a hundred gun thieves are caught because 12% of the time Police don't even attend the scene, or do so days later, or by phone) and IF a judge hands them a pathetic sentence then STILL less than 10% will spend a day in jail for that offending. Because of concurrent sentencing.*

*Fully 10 % of confiscated guns in Australia are made by the gangs themselves. Often machine guns. Now it can be even done on a desk top with a 3D printer. Their smuggling, modifying, stealing or manufacturing of firearms can never be stopped.*

*But whether or not they choose to use them IS up to us. With the message that we send. This is the ONLY one of the three factors that we can effect. We must.*

## Proposed Firearm Policy

Please understand that any policy intended to secure the votes of New Zealand's 250,000 firearm licence holders must be specific and guaranteed. Shooters are now very wary due to previous betrayals by 'Friends'.

Here is what we suggest as a solid first step to attracting the votes of kiwi shooters:

**1. The aggressive targeting of serious firearm offenders.**

*Make the theft of, criminal use of and possession of firearms for crime an aggravating factor in sentencing. No more home detention for those found with sawn off shotguns and AK47s.*

**2. The rejection of registration of all firearms.**

*This has failed in every nation that it has been tried – including New Zealand. We abandoned the historical system due to 66% inaccuracy. Canada has also just dumped their system after running BILLIONS of dollars over budget and producing nothing of value at any price.*

*Criminals here are known to grind off serial numbers, defeating a lumbering multi-million dollar system in seconds. Right now only handguns, some semi-automatic rifles and collectables are recorded. Police have confirmed that even this low number of records is known to be massively inaccurate. Yet they have NEVER run an audit and reject shooter's demands for this because they are "Too busy".*

**3. Police accountability.**

*Sadly, there is now an established culture of contempt in the Arms Management area of Policing. We see repeated examples of Police acting outside of law in every area. Only correcting such casual abuses when shooting groups sacrifice tens of thousands of dollars to take them to court.*

*Example: The Arms Code is the shooting equivalent of the Road Code. Police rewrote this with a wish list of imagined law. Shooters complained to the then Police Minister. Police apologised and said this was an error. Just a digital document intended for discussion.*

*Then we discovered that Police had actually printed and distributed tens of thousands of copies. These were withdrawn - but not before costing taxpayers over \$30,000. Which brings us to accountability. There is none.*

*Shooters need an independent oversight panel to monitor Police management of the Arms Act. Many shooters want the responsibility stripped from them entirely.*

*Police incompetence over the last decades has been unbelievable. Including losing over 25,000 shooters because of a 'bespoke system', arming over 1100 criminals from Australia because they fail to data match (They went on to commit dozens of firearm offences) and on and on.*

**In summary:**

**Shooters are asking for Police to follow the law, not invent it.**

**Shooters are asking for our worst firearm offenders to be punished.**

**Shooters are asking for any firearm policy to reflect reality.**

*Rejecting the expensive experiments that have proven failures in every nation that they have been tried - Including New Zealand. We have some of the best gun laws in the world. They work.*