



# ENSURING A JUST, FAIR AND SAFE AUSTRALIA

## Justice and Safety for All Australians at Home and Abroad

The Greens have long been the only voice for civil liberties in the Australian Parliament. Despite this, the major parties have sat by while fundamental freedoms have been eroded and undermined. We will continue to stand up for a just, fair and safe Australia where rights and liberties are protected.

The Greens have always stood for a just and safe Australia. We have witnessed our country become egalitarian, less humane, less safe and less just over the past couple of decades.

The Greens will create a safe and just Australia for all Australians, and protect the freedoms we should all enjoy.

### > AN AUSTRALIAN BILL OF RIGHTS

Australia is one of the few countries in the world without basic rights protected in the Constitution. This means fundamental human rights like our freedom of speech, the right to a fair trial and protection from arbitrary imprisonment risk being trampled on.

For decades our liberties have been eroded by governments, and this has never been more the case than over the past few years under the Abbott-Turnbull Government, with individual rights being traded off for corporate interests, both offline and online.

Recent erosions of human rights we have witnessed as a nation include:

- the inhumane treatment of asylum seekers;
- racial profiling in city streets by Border Protection;
- political revocation of citizenship without due legal process;
- gagging of media and criminalizing whistleblowers;
- Government collection of metadata;
- debilitating cuts and conditions imposed on legal assistance services and advocacy groups.

These erosions clearly demonstrate how vulnerable we are without a Bill of Rights to ensure their protection.

The Greens are committed to enshrining a Bill of Rights in our Constitution, to wind back recent erosions to those rights, and ensure they are protected into the future.

### > AUSTRALIAN CITIZENS AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM

The Greens believe removing citizenship from nationalised Australians who have allegedly engaged in violent extremism abroad is irresponsible, and risks lives, including those of Australians traveling and working abroad.

The Greens opposed the *Australian Citizenship Amendment (Allegiance to Australia) Bill 2015*, which the Turnbull Government was able to pass through the Senate with the support of Labor. This legislation will force Australian dual nationals who engage in violent extremism to leave the country, or not return to Australia. This will lead to Government-endorsed exportation of violent extremists into a global marketplace of radicalised people to potentially commit more violence against Australians at home and abroad. We cannot make Australians safer by making other countries less safe.

We also have a duty to people from other nations, to ensure that any of our citizens convicted of a terrorist offence are dealt with by the justice system here in Australia. Anything less is an abrogation of our responsibilities for maintaining international peace and security, for all citizens.

The Greens will repeal this reckless amendment to the *Australian Citizenship Act 2007*, and ensure that if any Australian citizens are suspected of committing acts of violent extremism, either at home or overseas, they will be dealt with by the Australian justice system.

### > A BLUE PAPER ON AUSTRALIA'S APPROACH TO EXTREMISM

The development of anti-terrorism laws has for the last decade been ad-hoc, reactionary and opaque. There has been very little in the way of strategic planning or public explanations for the needs for the law, for how long they will be needed, or why we must forfeit fundamental human rights. Very little evidence has been offered in the public sphere as the effectiveness of the laws, both before and after they have been introduced.

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The Greens will establish a Blue Paper, with the input of security agencies and other experts to find broader solutions to radicalisation and extremism beyond the strict law and order approach of the past decade.

## > GUNS IN AUSTRALIA

There are now more guns in Australia than there was before the buy-back scheme.

The Greens absolutely support legitimate firearm owners using their guns for legitimate purposes such as sport shooting or pest and/or feral species eradication, and recognise that most legal firearm owners are responsible law-abiding citizens.

But at the same time we must take seriously our public responsibility to ensure the broader community is as safe from firearm-related crimes as possible.

Dr Philip Alpers has noted through his research: for the first time in 20 years, Australia's national arsenal of private guns is larger than it was before the Port Arthur massacre.

The Australian Crime Commission estimates there are more than 250,000 illegal long-arms in circulation.

Australia must take steps to limit the number of guns available to reduce the number of guns falling into the hands of criminals.

Existing gun control laws have reduced firearm deaths in Australia, but there is more to do. The next step is to ban semi-automatic hand guns. Such a step will increase public safety in the interest of all Australians.

## > ADLER A110 LEVER-ACTION SHOTGUN

Historically, shotguns have had very limited magazine capacities. The Adler A110 Shotgun is a relatively new lever-action shotgun with a five or seven round magazine, plus one round in the chamber.

A 12 month importation ban was put on the eight-round version, but this ban has effectively been circumvented by importation of the six-round version still being allowed. With this loophole discovered, the Adler A110's importer claimed to have pre-sold 7,000 of them to firearm shops around Australia in under a week<sup>1</sup>.

More worrying still, firearm stores are now advertising and selling "magazine extension tubes" that will turn a five round magazine into a ten round magazine, meaning legally bought Adler A110s will be able to fire off 11 rounds in as many seconds.

Given its magazine capacity, and the rapidity of the firing mechanism, this lever-action shotgun functions like a de facto pump-action shotgun. A pump-action shotgun is classified as a Category C Firearm in the in the *National Firearms Agreement*,

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<sup>1</sup> Welch D. 2015, *Rapid-fire Adler shotgun on its way to Australia threatens safety, Gun Control Australia says*, ABC News, viewed 25 May 2016, <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-04-10/decision-on-adler-shotgun-ban-still-under-review/7311912>

which is very difficult to import. Yet because it is lever-action, the similarly capable Adler A110 is currently regarded as a Category A Firearm, which is the easiest category firearm to import.

And now another rapid-fire lever-action shotgun, the Pardus LAX, has hit the Australian market<sup>2</sup>.

The National Firearms Agreement has not been updated since 1996, and the Government has been too slow to update it, creating a loophole that has caused a major public safety issue.

The Greens believe that weak domestic gun control legislation is a greater threat to Australians than a possible terrorist attack.

The Greens will push for the National Firearms Agreement to be updated as a matter of urgency, to ensure that all magazine-loaded rapid-fire shotguns, including those with a lever-action, are classified as a Category C or D Firearm (depending on magazine size).

We will also ensure that the NFA is regularly reviewed so that it can keep pace with changes in firearm technology.

## > SEMI-AUTOMATIC HANDGUNS

The Greens are working to make sure Australian streets and neighbourhoods are safer for all. We know that banning semi-automatic handguns is an important step in reducing firearm-related deaths and violent crime – for the benefit of Australians everywhere.

There are approximately 10,000 handguns in the illicit firearm market within Australia<sup>3</sup>. Data also tells us that "criminals at all levels favour handguns"<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup> Dunn, M. 2016, *Thousands of Australians buy Adler A110 shotgun in less than a year*, Herald Sun, viewed 14 June 2016, <http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/thousands-of-australians-buy-adler-a110-shotgun-in-less-than-a-year/news-story/33440c893dc11c968dd5056d5234ffeb>

<sup>3</sup> Australian Crime Commission 2012, *Final report of the national investigation into the illegal firearms market*, Australian Parliament House (Media Release), viewed 13 June 2016, <http://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/search/display/display.w3p;query%3DId%3A%22media%2Fpressrel%2F1744926%22>

<sup>4</sup> Bricknell, S. 2008, *Criminal use of handguns in Australia*, Australian Institute of Criminology, viewed 13 June 2016, [http://www.aic.gov.au/media\\_library/publications/tandi\\_pdf/tandi361.pdf](http://www.aic.gov.au/media_library/publications/tandi_pdf/tandi361.pdf)