

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 7 July 2026 9:31 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: No reclassification. No caps. No buyback.

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

I would like to enter my submission by stating that I like the changes brought forward about criminal charges being mandatory for criminals who steal firearms, and the citizen ship amendment to our firearm laws, but apart from that I cannot stand any other law that has been proposed. The firearm caps will do nothing to prevent firearm related crime, even one firearm in the hands of a dangerous individual is too many, but anyone who is considered under our law as a "fit and proper person" should not be restricted in how many firearms they can own (subject only to storage requirement already in place) if a "fit and proper person" would like to own 100 firearms then that should be fine as they are "fit and proper". I also would like to see the reclassification of linear action and button release firearms to be dropped from our new legislation, a Lee Enfield rifle from the first or second world war can be operated as fast as a linear action rifle or shotgun can (see "mad minute Lee Enfield" on YouTube), and would do nothing to curb firearm violence, this reclassification is a ban by any other name and is a disgusting affront and punishment to the law abiding firearm owners who have done nothing wrong and work with our government and community to the benefit of all. On the reclassification as being a "ban by stealth" any person who could have a category C licence that linear action firearms would be categorised under in this new proposal, would simply buy a semi-auto rifle or shotgun and would not waste their money on a linear action firearm for the purposes category C is used for. As an aside, I would also like to see a roll back on the Tasmanian laws around pre-1901 firearms to be bought without licence again and have them treated as collectors items. Amendments should be made to include modern reproductions of the same firearms (as long as they fit the same obsolete description of their antique counterpart) as the idea someone would use an antique obsolete ammunition firearm to commit a crime is ridiculous as the victim involved in such a crime would actually be safer than if the assailant used a knife or blunt instrument that they actually could use to cause harm versus an antique they could not load and only menace a person with, but I digress, as for my closing statement I would like to see change to streamline how information is shared between policing and law enforcement departments to make the public safer, if safety is what this is really all about, and take reclassifications, ownership caps and buy backs off the table. Do not pander to fear stricken individuals who are making decisions and deciding their opinions based on feelings rather than facts and reality.

Thankyou,

[REDACTED]

Submission to the Consultation on the Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026

To: Submissions, Strategy and Support, Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management

I am making this submission as a private Tasmanian resident. I am requesting that my identity be kept confidential, as I am the partner of a serving police officer and do not want my comments linked to my partner or to his workplace.

My partner is a serving police officer in Tasmania. Every single day he puts on his uniform and leaves for work, and every single day I do not know for certain that he is coming home. I have sat with the knowledge that a routine call-out, a domestic disturbance, a random stop on the road, could be the moment a firearm is pointed at him. I have thought, more times than I would like to admit, about what it would mean to get a knock on the door instead of a text from my partner at the end of his shift. That fear does not switch off. It is there when he leaves for a shift and it is there until he walks back through the door.

I support the intent of this Bill in increasing community and police safety. Safety should be the priority and overarching criteria in making such important decisions for our community. If we make decisions based on limited evidence, ideology and political gain – we risk the lives of police and increase risk to public safety.

Police are the ones who attend when things go wrong, often with less information than they need about who they are dealing with and what that person has access to. A National Firearms Register that gives them real, near real-time visibility of firearms and licences could be the difference between an officer walking into a situation informed, or walking into it blind. My husband deserves to walk in informed. So does every other officer in this state.

Additionally, I believe it is important to consider this Bill in the context of the Tasmanian Government cutting funding to the very department responsible for public safety. Budget efficiency targets are in place for the Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management. That means potential cuts to police positions impacting on current officer workload and access to backup, alongside equipment they need to respond safely and to keep the public safe. It is therefore critical that decisions are made to reduce public risk and increase community and public safety, this Bill contributes to that.

Lastly, there must be capable, measured political leadership in place in order to act on clear, consistent advice from the Commissioner about what keeps officers and the public safe. I am asking that decision-makers listen to the Police Commissioner alongside grounded data and evidence.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

[Submission made on a confidential basis — identity withheld at the author's request]

Date: 7 August 2026

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 20 July 2026 5:39 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026 - Consultation

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Re: Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026.

Dear Sir / Madam.

I have significant concerns about the introduction of the "Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026" in it's current form.

Having read the proposed amendments to the firearms act, I provide the following submission.

Please treat this submission as confidential to protect my identity. The reason being that the opinions stated may indicate that I may be a firearm owner and thus it would be best if by name was not identified. Identification of potential firearm owners has in the past led to targeted robberies, as experienced from the several data leaks globally where firearm owners have been identified from this sort of information.

Some changes applied in this amended Firearms are act inconsistent to the purpose of the act. At the very beginning of the act it states "Whereas- ... the three political parties.... Have agreed together that laws relating to the control of firearms in Tasmania should be consistent with the laws applying to other states and territories of the commonwealth of Australia.

The recategorization of straight pull and button/lever release rifles and shotguns is not being applied in all states and territories. South Australia, Northern territory and Queensland have not implemented this tighter categorization of these firearms. This approach to apply stricter controls is therefore not consistent. If all states and territories are not implementing tighter controls on these firearms, this change shouldn't not be implemented. If this change was necessary to be enacted across all Australia, it should be performed at with All states and Territories or performed at a federal level. This recategorization of these sorts of firearms was not a recommendation from the Royal commission on antisemitism and social cohesion (interim report released 30 April 2026) that was conducted after the Bondi shooting Incident (December 2025). If additional controls were recommended from the review, they would have included them. The reason stated for the amendment to the Tasmanian Firearms act was to in response to the Bondi Incident. Surely the updates to the act should be in line with the recommendations identified from the Royal commission into the incident. Tighter controls of certain firearms are therefore not required. Straight pull firearms are also typically cheaper and more affordable than traditional rotating bolt style firearms. Given the cost of living pressures, this change would be expected to make firearm ownership more expensive. The existing controls of being a fit and proper person and having a suitable reason for a particular category of firearm ownership are sufficient if the people involved in this review and approval process correctly fulfil their duties.

Section 25 regarding the implementation of a public/dealer used verification system using a name and expiry date. The implementation of a public used verification system should be limited to using non-personally identifiable data for the process. No names should be used for verification as such systems can be used by people adept in software coding to then run through expiry dates to then identify firearm owners. Instead the license number could be used and simply display that the license is current or not without any personally identifiable information. This way someone must have sighted the license to see the license number and can then verify if the license is still valid. This would suitable achieve the purpose for a firearm owner verifying that the person they are lending a firearm to is a currently licensed individual. Additionally the same system could be utilised by firearm dealers for selling firearms and ammunition, verifying that the license is still valid.

Section 28 (applications for licenses). The requirement to either be a Tasmanian resident or is about to become a resident is unnecessary. Holding a firearms license is already predicated by demonstrating a need to use a firearm and having suitable safety training etc. I support that the person should be an Australian citizen as included in the amended act. Instead the requirement for being a Tasmanian resident should be reserved for persons who actually wish to acquire a firearm. This would then mean that Australian citizen could use a firearm of a stated category, but they must be a Tasmanian to own a firearm in Tasmania. It should be noted that the amended act includes a new subsection 3 which would enable the commissioner to exempt a license from the condition 1(c) (Tasmanian Residency) or condition 1(d) (Australian/New Zealand Residency), with reasonable grounds. If the commissioner can disregard this requirement for certain people, then the requirement isn't mandatory and therefore can be removed from the updated act. Note that this feedback also pertains to Section 29 where similar changes have been included in the amended act. Additionally it is noted that the amendments to section 36A (Renewal of Licences) does not include Tasmanian Residency as a requirement (only that the person is an Australian citizen / NZ citizen). This creates inconsistency as it would allow an existing license holder who does not reside in Tasmania, to renew their license but anyone else must be a Tasmanian resident.

In many of the updated sections of the amended act, there has been included discretion for the commissioner to disregard or omit a person to meet a certain requirement under the act. This is not appropriate. Either the rules apply to all of us or the particular rule should not be in the act.

Section 46 inclusion of (bb): Firearms storage. The requirement to notify the commissioner of a different firearms storage location for storage greater than 24 hours should not be applicable when firearms are lent to another firearms license holder. The section on lending firearms (Section 121A) makes no mention of having to abide to this requirement but in the vast majority of situations when a firearm is lent, it would be greater than 24 hours. Clarification should be included in the act. For example, if a firearm owner goes on a holiday, their firearm would be more safely stored, with another licensed firearm owner in their approved storage safe (ie. A more monitored condition) as opposed to locked up in an approved safe in an empty house. Additionally this storage change notification requirement does not factor for firearms undergoing change or repair by gunsmiths, where it would likely take more than 24 hours for the repairs to be complete. There was no mention of this storage location change notification requirement in Section 98. Additionally this storage change notification requirement does not factor for firearms that are inherited as per Section 147 where the firearm is held in secure storage by "the Keeper", nor were there any changes to Section 147 for this change. Note that the Question and answer document that was referred to in this review process was completely lacking in detail regarding this change. If the intent is to require notification for any storage location change greater than 24 hours, then more examples are required so that people actually know what is required and under what circumstances. This change to require notification for any storage location change greater than 24 was not a recommendation from the Royal commission on antisemitism and social cohesion (interim report released 30 April 2026) that was conducted after the Bondi shooting Incident (December 2025). Additionally this change is not being applied in all states and territories, thereby creating more differences in firearm legislation across the different states and territories (as stated before, this change inconsistent to the purpose of the act, where the intent is to align the acts to remain consistent across all of Australia.) This change will create a burdensome process that is unnecessary as firearms owners are already responsible for safe firearms storage, where safe firearms storage is routinely reviewed by police.

Section 57, changes in particulars of a license from within "14 days of change" to "at least 7 days before" is insufficient time and would be easily not met by anyone changing their residential address. Moving house is a stressful process and remembering to notify at least 7 days before would easily be missed by a normal person, and therefore subject to 50 penalty units. Which is unjustified and unfair and would have insufficient risk to the safety of the public, given the firearm holder was already licensed and a fit and proper person.

Section 82. Inspection of firearms. This section needs clarification as to what "in possession" actually means. This changes presumably means that if the firearm is lent to another licensed person, that the person lending (receiving) the firearm from the registered owner, must produce the firearm for inspection when requested by the police. This is fine. However it cannot be expected that someone else living at the property of the registered owner, produce a firearm for inspection to police when requested. This would demonstrate that an unauthorized (unlicensed) individual may access the firearm/s of the registered person. This section should be reworded as per the original act where the registered owner must produce the firearm for inspection when stored at the registered

owners specified storage location, or where the firearm is lent to another licensed individual, that licensed individual should produce the firearm for inspection. Only a firearm licensee can be expected to produce and handle a firearm.

Section 83 subsection 2 inclusion (CA) where firearm location is addressed. This does not factor for the conditions I describe above against section 46 for when firearms are lent or are with a gunsmith for repair.

Section 83 subsection. regarding disclosure of information from the register of firearms. Re provision of information to the "National Authority". There should be reviews on the authorized individuals accessing or requesting information on the firearms register to ensure that information can not be easily diverted for criminal use, without the likelihood of authorized individuals being identified for unnecessary or suspiciously requesting information from the firearms register.

Section 110, trafficking in firearms. section 3A should be amended to state that evidence used to support a criminal offence, must not be in dispute. Only then can the evidence be use to support a different criminal offence as described in the amended act.

Most of the substantial changes made in the act were not recommended by the Royal commission on antisemitism and social cohesion (interim report released 30 April 2026) that was conducted after the Bondi shooting Incident (December 2025). The only recommendation that has been implemented based on the Royal commission was the introduction of the National Firearms Register (NFR). And the implementation of the NFR is inconsistent in this bill compared to the implementation throughout Australia. The approach for a National register must be completely aligned. There is also insufficient evidence that these changes are required for public safety. If substantive changes were required as per this amended bill, then they should have been included in the Royal commission outcomes. As they weren't, then they should not be included in this amended bill as the entire reasoning for the updated firearms bill was due to the Bondi incident.

Yours Sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Tasmania.

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 2 August 2026 5:52 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Fire arms BIL

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED] Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

No to changes to the fire arms Bil.
We need constitution to bare arms.....

[REDACTED]

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 25 July 2026 3:46 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Firearm's bill amendment

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED] Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Don't agree with proposed changes

Tasmania should do same as Queensland and Victoria and Northern Territory Tasmania is a hunting state and law abiding citizens are already regulated enough Sent from my iPhone

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 1 August 2026 11:34 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Dear Sir or Madam

You don't often get email from bretttharms@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Sir or Madam

I am writing to you as a concerned Citizen, significant tax contributor and a person who does not want to see my rights as a safe gun owner taken away for no legitimate reason.

Please call me anytime to discuss further..

[REDACTED]

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 5 August 2026 9:50 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Firearm submissions, easy target

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

It may be stating the obvious here but these changes need to make an impact not just make the wider community sleep easier at night by tricking them into thinking these new amendments will have an impact because they simply won't. If you put a bolt action that is not mentioned against a straight pull there is no significant time difference in loading so changing any straight pull is worthless. Rimfire capacity is 15 for one rimfire ,10 for another, that's again not going to achieve a single thing, if you have 3 ten round mags again the load time is almost equal to having two 15 round mags, this will make little to no effect, the button release guns and blow back actions if moved into cat C I understand. However I would grandfather these as most makes in this category have a short or limited lifespan so they would all get handed back in due course worn out or unable to have parts replaced due to new strict import laws that are already in place. This would save a lot of money .I believe all cat a rimfire and air rifle should be exempt from the straight pull and capacity of ten limit. If any buy back is carried out It has to be for the true value of the firearm, no more and no less. Anything else would be government robbery and also would drive a black market trade which I would have thought would be the main thing we are trying to avoid. Any caps on numbers should be avoided. Again not the issue in the correct hands and let's face the facts only 3 guns where used at Bondi which started all this so capping at 5 won't fix that nor did the shooter shoot anymore that one at a time. This brings me to licensing review and punishment. Not one law abiding gun owner has a problem with strict background checks or harsh sentences for offenders of firearm thefts etc. Close the loopholes at both these parts and you may gain some votes back, but only if you give the hard working farmers, shooters etc a hand, not a cheque for 1/10th of what there guns are worth. By changing a little you will solve a lot, by changing a lot you will change little. Thank you for the opportunity to reply to this and going forward I would be happy to explain in more detail any of my experienced suggestions. Regards [REDACTED]

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 31 July 2026 9:34 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Gun Laws changes

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

My opinion with the gun laws dont go far enough when it comes down to mandatory sentencing for crimes related to gun theft..

There should be a minimum of 3 years jail sentencing for breaking into a home and if the home has firearms stored that should increase to 6 years jail if criminals steal any firearms....

Criminals may think twice if we have just laws for these crimes.

I dont support firearm caps . It doesnt matter if we have 2 guns or 100 we can only use one firearm at a time

I also dont support the re classification of lever release or quick pull arms to be in the same classification as semi auto firearms.

Be hard on criminals not responsible gun owners

The crimes committed by registered gun owners are very low

The penalty for criminals is very low

A firearm that is stolen and passed on should have the same penaltly applied to the persons that handles or buys that firearm 6 years jail.

We should have mandatory sentencing on more crimes... we have no deterrent for offenders or repeat offenders

Do more for responsible citizens' and be harder on criminals.

Thank [REDACTED]

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 12 July 2026 8:40 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Feed back on fire arms bill.

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Have not read all information about the bill. However, there should be a levy of 50 dollars, per year, per firearm, to enable Tas police to better police stolen firearms. A dedicated group of police to chase up criminal behaviour involving stolen guns, is necessary, and it is not unreasonable to expect firearm owners to pay for it. As the current, and proposed law stands, the law has no ability to effectively deter criminals from having a stolen firearm. It is too easy to keep a stolen gun at home with out repercussions, provided criminals do not attract police attention. Furthermore, as things currently stand, there is no pathway for the general community to dob in someone with a stolen firearm. There is nothing in the proposed legislation for this. Moreover, there is no ability in the proposed legislation to round up stolen fire arms quickly, using information supplied by the public. A levy of 50 dollars on every firearm in Tasmania, with a good police response, would help legal firearm owners, by deterring theft, thereby removing fire arms from criminals. By removing the ease and surety in which criminals can keep stolen guns - without worrying about detection of the stolen guns, by the community and police. All your proposed bill does is deal with the situation after a crime is committed. It would be better to have legislation that makes stolen fire arms to risky to acquire by criminals in the first place. This needs money, and better legislation than the laws proposed in the bill. The proposed bill does nothing to enhance detection of stolen firearms in the community. Yours sincerely. [REDACTED]

Sent from Android device

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 2 August 2026 9:04 AM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Firearms Bill

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

[REDACTED] Oppose this firearms bill.
STOP THE FIREARMS CHANGE.
[REDACTED]

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 6 August 2026 8:31 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Firearm Reforms

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

I support

- Stronger penalties for stealing firearms
- Stronger penalties and mandatory minimums for possessing stolen firearms
- Laws that actually target criminals and terrorists

I oppose

- Reclassifying straight-pull and lever/button-release centre-fire rifles and shotguns to Category C
- New detachable magazine limits on Category A and B firearms
- Making Australian citizenship the default for a firearms licence
- Restrictive lending rules that require National Firearms Register verification
- 24-hour notification if a firearm is stored away from the registered address
- Cutting the interstate Category A/B transfer window from three months to seven days
- Expanding inspection powers to anyone in possession of a firearm
- National Firearms Register real-time notification and verification rules
- Continued reliance on broad Commissioner exemptions instead of clear legislation

Key reasons

- Straight-pull and lever/button-release firearms are practical for hunting and pest control. No Tasmanian evidence shows they are a public safety risk when held by licensed people.
- Many straight-pull rifles are historical with limited capacity. Reclassifying them destroys irreplaceable firearms.
- New magazine limits on Category A and B have no proven safety benefit. Criminals ignore magazine rules.
- Citizenship as the default creates unnecessary barriers and human-rights issues.
- Tasmania should recognise equivalent overseas licences to support regional tourism and hunting.
- Lending between two licensed people should not need NFR checks.
- The 24-hour storage rule is impractical for multi-day pest control and farm work.
- The National Firearms Register creates a high-value target for hackers after major Australian data breaches.
- Suppressors are occupational health and safety equipment, not silent weapons.

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 5 August 2026 12:47 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Proposed Gun LawChanges Tasmania

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED] Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

To whom it may concern. My name is [REDACTED] and for the past 48 years or so I have been a keen hunter in Tasmania and licenced accordingly since inception of gun licences.I am also a member of the H.C.S.C gun club south of Hobart as well as a current SSAA Member I DO NOT support the proposed firearms caps, the reclassification of firearms or the buy back scheme that is being proposed.
I DO STRONGLY support the National Firearms Registry and tougher sentences for firearm theft and other offences

REGARDS
[REDACTED]

INDIVIDUAL CONSULTATION SUBMISSION

Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026

Prepared in response to the Tasmanian Government consultation

NAME



LOCATION

Brighton

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Submission summary

Overall, this submission supports 8 amendments, opposes 8, is unsure about 0, and records no comment on 5.

8 SUPPORT	8 OPPOSE	0 UNSURE	5 NO COMMENT
1 OPPOSE	2 SUPPORT	3 SUPPORT	
4 SUPPORT	5 OPPOSE	6 OPPOSE	
7 OPPOSE	8 NO COMMENT	9 NO COMMENT	
10 OPPOSE	11 OPPOSE	12 OPPOSE	
13 SUPPORT	14 SUPPORT	15 NO COMMENT	
16 SUPPORT	17 SUPPORT	18 OPPOSE	
19 NO COMMENT	20 SUPPORT	21 NO COMMENT	

AMENDMENT 1**OPPOSE****Reclassification of straight-pull and button/lever-release centre-fire rifles and shotguns, including lever-action shotguns****Concerns that have been raised**

- Classification should be based on evidence rather than appearance, public reaction to specific events, or theoretical differences in cycling speed.
- Some firearm owners consider the practical rate of fire between conventional bolt-action and straight-pull manually operated firearms to be broadly comparable, and may question whether any difference is sufficient to justify reclassification.
- Category C access is significantly more restricted and the proposal could prevent ordinary licence holders from continuing to own firearms that may have substantial financial or sentimental value.
- Strengthened storage requirements, theft-prevention measures and enforcement against unlawful possession may have a greater impact on public safety than reclassification alone.
- The proposal may impose substantial cost on lawful owners without a demonstrated public-safety benefit proportionate to that impact.

Suggested alternatives

- Stronger storage requirements.
- Better theft-prevention measures.
- More targeted enforcement against unlawful possession.
- Clearer exemptions or transition arrangements.
- A narrower amendment focused on the identified risk.

Additional comments

I'm not even a firearm owner and even I can see this isn't addressing criminal action or terrorists

AMENDMENT 2**SUPPORT****Australian citizenship as the default firearms-licensing requirement****Reasons given in support**

- Citizenship may provide a clearer long-term connection to Australia.
- A single default rule may simplify eligibility assessments.
- Defined exemptions may preserve access for specific employment or primary-production needs.

AMENDMENT 3**SUPPORT****Restriction on on-lending firearms****Reasons given in support**

- It keeps the registered owner closer to the person actually possessing the firearm.
- It may reduce confusion about where a firearm is located.
- It may reduce the chance of loss, misplacement or unauthorised possession.

AMENDMENT 4**SUPPORT****Verification of borrower licence and storage****Reasons given in support**

- It promotes responsible lending and lawful storage.
- It may prevent accidental lending to a suspended, expired or unsuitable licence holder.
- Clear definitions may improve consistency and support the National Firearms Register.

AMENDMENT 5

Nationally consistent firearm terminology

OPPOSE

Concerns that have been raised

- Terminology changes should not silently broaden offences or regulated items.
- Every amended definition should be published with a clear explanation of legal effect.
- Existing licences, records and guidance should remain understandable during transition.

Suggested alternatives

- Stronger storage requirements.
- Better theft-prevention measures.
- More targeted enforcement against unlawful possession.
- Clearer exemptions or transition arrangements.
- A narrower amendment focused on the identified risk.

Additional comments

This is just silly

AMENDMENT 6

Clarification of firearm and firearm-part definitions

OPPOSE

Concerns that have been raised

- The exact expert advice and intended scope should be published.
- Overly broad definitions could capture ordinary, non-pressure-bearing or unregulated components.
- Definitions should distinguish critical operating parts from generic hardware and accessories.
- Owners and businesses need clear transitional guidance for newly regulated parts.

Suggested alternatives

- Stronger storage requirements.
- Better theft-prevention measures.
- More targeted enforcement against unlawful possession.
- Clearer exemptions or transition arrangements.
- A narrower amendment focused on the identified risk.

AMENDMENT 7

Notification of storage away from the owner's residence

OPPOSE

Concerns that have been raised

- A 24-hour threshold may be impractical for hunting trips, competitions, work, repairs or emergencies.
- The rule should focus on the primary storage location rather than brief lawful travel.
- An easy online notification process and emergency exceptions are essential.
- Repeated notifications may create administrative burden without improving physical security.

Suggested alternatives

- Stronger storage requirements.
- Better theft-prevention measures.
- More targeted enforcement against unlawful possession.
- Clearer exemptions or transition arrangements.
- A narrower amendment focused on the identified risk.

AMENDMENT 8**Notification before changing residential address**

NO COMMENT

AMENDMENT 9**Expanded authority for firearms dealer employees**

NO COMMENT

AMENDMENT 10**Seven-day Tasmanian licence application for new interstate residents**

OPPOSE

Concerns that have been raised

- Seven days is very short during a household move and may be difficult where documents or appointments are unavailable.
- A 28- or 30-day period may achieve compliance without unnecessary technical offences.
- Interstate licences should remain recognised while a timely Tasmanian application is processed.

Suggested alternatives

- Stronger storage requirements.
- Better theft-prevention measures.
- More targeted enforcement against unlawful possession.
- Clearer exemptions or transition arrangements.
- A narrower amendment focused on the identified risk.

AMENDMENT 11**Advance notice of changes in personal particulars**

OPPOSE

Concerns that have been raised

- Many personal changes are not known seven days in advance.
- The Bill should specify which particulars can reasonably be pre-notified.
- An 'as soon as practicable' option should apply to unplanned changes.
- Technical noncompliance should not attract disproportionate penalties.

Suggested alternatives

- Stronger storage requirements.
- Better theft-prevention measures.
- More targeted enforcement against unlawful possession.
- Clearer exemptions or transition arrangements.
- A narrower amendment focused on the identified risk.

AMENDMENT 12**Production of firearms for police inspection****OPPOSE****Concerns that have been raised**

- Requests should require a clear lawful basis and reasonable time for compliance.
- The law should account for firearms stored elsewhere or temporarily inaccessible.
- Safeguards are needed against arbitrary or unnecessarily intrusive demands.

Suggested alternatives

- Stronger storage requirements.
- Better theft-prevention measures.
- More targeted enforcement against unlawful possession.
- Clearer exemptions or transition arrangements.
- A narrower amendment focused on the identified risk.

Additional comments

Even as a non firearm owner I would think the registered owner would need to be present

AMENDMENT 13**Possession of stolen firearms offence and penalty****SUPPORT****Reasons given in support**

- Stolen firearms present a serious public-safety risk and stronger penalties may be justified.
- Clear offence elements can improve consistent prosecution.
- The change targets unlawful possession rather than licensed ownership.

Additional comments

Needs to be a much longer punishment

AMENDMENT 14**Alternative conviction for possession of stolen firearms****SUPPORT****Reasons given in support**

- It may avoid a complete acquittal where serious proven conduct falls short of trafficking.
- Alternative verdicts can improve court efficiency.
- The lesser offence would still need to be proven.

AMENDMENT 15**Summary trial option for unlawful firearms trafficking****NO COMMENT****AMENDMENT 16****New summary offence of stealing a firearm or firearm part****SUPPORT****Reasons given in support**

- A specific summary offence may permit timely prosecution of suitable cases.
- It recognises the particular danger associated with stolen firearms.
- It may reduce unnecessary higher-court proceedings.

AMENDMENT 17**SUPPORT****Expansion of firearm prohibition orders****Reasons given in support**

- A prohibition order may be ineffective if the person can lawfully possess ammunition or critical parts.
- The expansion may close practical gaps in risk management.
- It aligns the restriction with the purpose of preventing firearm access.

AMENDMENT 18**OPPOSE****Magazine ammunition-capacity limits for Category A and B firearms****Concerns that have been raised**

- The government should publish evidence linking affected magazine capacities to Tasmanian crime risk.
- Limits may have little effect on criminals using stolen or prohibited firearms.
- The proposal may impose costs on sporting shooters, hunters and primary producers.
- Secure storage and theft prevention may better address diversion risk.
- Capacity rules must address fixed magazines, tubular magazines and lawful competition use clearly.

Suggested alternatives

- Stronger storage requirements.
- Better theft-prevention measures.
- More targeted enforcement against unlawful possession.
- Clearer exemptions or transition arrangements.
- A narrower amendment focused on the identified risk.

Additional comments

No info is present to claim this makes anyone safer

AMENDMENT 19**NO COMMENT****Updated identification requirements for licence applications****AMENDMENT 20****SUPPORT****Three-month mandatory minimum imprisonment for stolen-firearm offences****Reasons given in support**

- Stealing or knowingly possessing a stolen firearm is serious and creates community risk.
- A minimum sentence may express strong denunciation and provide consistency.
- The measure is directed at criminal firearm diversion.

Additional comments

Needs to be a much longer sentence than just 3 months

AMENDMENT 21**NO COMMENT****Electronic firearms dealer record keeping****Additional comments**

This sounds like easy target for hackers

Further suggestions

- Require all firearm safes to be securely affixed to the floor and/or wall.
- Require a monitored alarm or camera system for all firearm safes.
- Require a monitored alarm or camera system where five or more firearms are stored.
- Require break-away, movement or tamper alarms to be fitted to firearm safes.
- Require concealed GPS tracking devices to be fitted to firearm safes.
- Require hard-wired security cameras with battery backup and off-site or cloud recording for firearm storage areas.
- Require firearm-safe keys to be kept in a separate room, secured in a separate locked location, or carried on the licence holder's person.
- Modernise firearm storage laws, including clearer requirements for anchoring safes and preventing whole-safe theft.
- Prioritise theft prevention, secure storage and enforcement against unlawful possession before imposing broad reclassifications on lawful owners.
- Publish the evidence relied upon for each firearm reclassification and explain the expected public-safety benefit.
- Separate broadly supported administrative and criminal-law reforms from contentious firearm reclassification proposals.
- Provide clear grandfathering, compensation and transition arrangements for owners of firearms or magazines that are currently lawful.
- Review each affected firearm type individually rather than grouping manually operated actions together without demonstrated evidence of equivalent risk.
- Increase penalties for stealing firearms or assisting firearm theft.
- Increase resources for investigating illegal firearm trafficking and unlawful possession.
- Provide grants or rebates to help lawful owners upgrade firearm storage.
- Introduce recognised security ratings for safes based on the number and type of firearms stored.
- Introduce enhanced storage requirements for larger firearm collections.
- Focus future reforms on reducing theft, unlawful possession and criminal misuse while minimising unnecessary impacts on people already complying with the law.
- I also don't see Labor's and greens proposals on firearm caps and actual evidence based reform. I fully reject anything like that

Closing comments

- I support amendments that have a demonstrated and proportionate public-safety benefit, but I do not support changes based primarily on optics, political pressure or unsupported assumptions.
- This legislation should not proceed unchanged until storage-law weaknesses, transition arrangements and the evidence supporting reclassification have been properly addressed.
- Some amendments may make a real difference to community safety, while others may unfairly affect lawful owners without a demonstrated reduction in risk.
- Lawful firearm ownership and criminal misuse should be treated as separate policy questions, with restrictions directed at the actual source of harm.
- The final legislation should strike a fair balance between community safety and the rights and responsibilities of people already complying with the law.
- No caps

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 22 July 2026 10:31 AM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: legislation feedback

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Submission to Feedback Firearm Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback to proposed legislative changes. Please find my submission below:

Firearm reclassification-

The reclassification of straight pull and button/lever release firearms to a more restrictive category C will mean that many of the current licenced firearm owners of these registered firearms will likely not meet the criteria of 'primary producer or a person employed or engaged in primary production.' This then means they have no right to possess these firearms unless they can very quickly acquire a property or change employment that will then meet the classification criteria. Owners of straight pull, button/lever release shouldn't need to purchase farms, property or choose different careers just to be able to retain these firearms. Many owners would also need time to purchase the farms that they need to be able to keep these firearms. The new legislation doesn't give a timeline for firearm owners to do this. Besides this, not all firearm owners have an interest in primary production or even the money to afford a property which will allow them to keep the firearm that they have legally purchased. Where is the evidence that a straight pull or button release is more dangerous to the community than any other legally owned, safely stored and registered firearm. There is no statistical information regarding this in the provided documentation for this decision to be made. Please provide more evidence to show that these firearm types have an increased risk to the public safety. What have licenced firearm owners done wrong to have these firearms reclassified? It is strange to even consider them a category C because other firearms currently in that category are self-loading and straight pull and button/lever release firearms take some manipulation by the user to reload which is the same as bolt action and other centrefire rifles. Straight pull firearms were developed in the 1800's. The technology is even older than that of a semi-automatic firearm. If they weren't deemed such a public safety risk concern in 1880, which this legislation is supposed fix, what has made the decision to reclassify them as category C now in 2026?

Alternative policy- All legally owned and currently registered straight pull and button/lever release firearms by law abiding owners are free to be used for sport recreation and to procure food for themselves and their friends and families and there is no reclassification of these firearms to restrictive level. Essentially, they remain Category B firearms. This means that there will be no need for any licenced firearm owner who currently owns action type to hand in these firearms in a buy back. Owners of these firearms won't have to purchase farms or change careers which they may not want to do just to retain these firearms and there will be no need to find money from the Federal or state governments at a time when it can be least afford.

Address change or name change-

Section 46 condition of licence that the licensee must notify the Commissioner in an approved form of a change of the licence's name or address. When an individual changes their residential address, it

can be a busy time, and I am sure that there are many things to think about. If a firearm licence holder only provides 23 hours' notice because they forgot, it could mean a fine of up to 50 penalty units. Currently a fine could be up to \$213(1penalty unit) x 50= \$10,650, just for notifying the registry one hour late. If there are multiple residents in that household that store their firearms for example a husband, wife, daughter and son all forget to change their address that could be a cumulative \$40,000 + fine for the household. What will the fine be for a minor licence holder if they forget to change address? What if a firearm owner goes on an extended holiday and forgets to advise where the firearm goes and what if they change plans whilst on holiday on where they decide to stay. If the firearm is going to be used for legitimate purposes what is the issue? This is an unjust punishment for people for a slight oversight. How will fining licenced firearm owners so much money keep the public safe? How would this legislation be enforced? How will the residential movements of law-abiding firearm owners be monitored? The only way to do this is to install GPS monitoring devices to all individuals' firearms. That is not practical. Will terrorists and criminals have to advise of any address changes, when they relocate their IED's, fully automatic assault rifles, 3D printed guns and suppressors?

A motorist has 14 days to provide a change of address and the maximum fine is 0.75 penalty (DLVR 44(1) Fail to notify change of name, residential address, or address for service of notices, within 14 days 0.75) Cars have the potential to cause injury and loss of life on and off Australian roads. The statistics for the road toll are getting higher every year. It is difficult to understand why the change of address laws and penalties in the traffic act are so low compared to that being proposed for firearm change of address when more lives are lost to road accidents than firearms each year. If increasing fines imposed on firearm owners is going to save lives, please also consider the same laws and fines for motorists, as this would certainly reduce road deaths on Tasmanian roads.

Alternative policy- allow licenced firearm owners 7 days to advise of their location electronically and any penalty is only 1 penalty unit for breaches beyond that time. That is more than fair and not the sneaky, ill-conceived, proposed red tape, cash grab that this fine is supposed to impose on licenced firearm owners.

Minimum sentencing for possessions of stolen firearms or for stealing firearms

The minimum sentencing of 3 months for firearm crime is a good step in the right direction. However, a 3-month sentence is far from a deterrent, I believe. Don't judges in Tasmania have the autonomy to set judicial sentences for serious crime? If they are the ones to decide sentences, shouldn't they set the sentence? Tasmania needs to get tough on crime regardless of whether its firearm related, or not. Build bigger modern jails if public safety is what this is all about. Make sentences for gun crime incredibly high. Anyone undertaking gun crime is not the type of individual who has the right to be in public places, they need to be locked away for many years and with no signs of rehabilitation kept in jail with no parole.

Detachable magazine limits for category A and B firearms

The logic for the introduction of magazine capacity limits for Cat A and B firearms is very difficult to understand. If a particular firearm has an accompanying magazine that exceeds the limit, how can that firearm then be used or remain registered if the only magazine manufactured for that firearm is 11 or more or 5 or more depending on the firearm? If a firearm has a magazine of 10 round or less and there are multiple magazines for that rifle shotgun, how is it any different than a firearm with a higher capacity magazine? If a criminal has a 15 round magazine for an air rifle and they wish to cause harm in the community why would they choose an air rifle with a high capacity magazine to undertake that public harming exercise? Where is the evidence that mass shootings are primarily conducted with air

rifles with more than 15 shot magazine capacities? Where is there information on how a firearm can be rectified to have magazine limits within the proposed allowable thresholds if the current magazine exceeds the limit?

Alternative policy- This is another ill-conceived and poorly thought through legislative proposal obviously made by people with no idea about firearms and it does nothing to further enhance community safety. Leave magazine capacity limits as they are and let law-abiding licenced firearm owners use their own firearms for their chosen sport, recreation, hunting and farm use. Target crime syndicates, extremists and terrorism instead.

The NFR- With the development of the NFR how can licenced firearm owners be sure that there will be no data breaches? Personal information could be hacked and provided to criminals, and this has the potential to compromise public safety. If humans' manage the data how will security be undertaken to prevent people with access to the NFR selling firearms owners personal details to crime syndicates? There is no explanation on how the NRA will manage and trace illegal firearms, unregistered firearms, improvised explosive devices, fully automatic firearms, belt fed shotguns or 3D printed firearms. This NFR appears to be a costly database to exercise more control by government of licenced firearm owners without addressing the real issues of gun crime. Is it possible to say how many lives will be saved by having this system? If the NFR was so important post the tragic Wieambilla incident in Queensland in 2022, why hasn't it been completed by now? If it was so important it would have been completed. Where is the evidence to suggest that it could have prevented the Bondi tragedy? Instead of an NFR, spend that money on counter terrorism, investigations into illegal firearm manufacturing and better intelligence gathering and surveillance if the outcome is to make the public safe.

Buy back of firearms-

There is no need whatsoever for a buyback of registered firearms nor any firearms to be reclassified into any other category thus necessitating them to be bought back. Any buy back will be costly for a state like Tasmania that is heavily indebted already. Tasmanian state debt is projected to surge to approximately \$10.4 billion by 2029, with state Treasury warning it could spiral toward \$146 billion by 2040 without significant structural fiscal repair. How can the state afford to fund a buy back even if it's done with the assistance of the Commonwealth government? And who pays to fund any proposed buy back? I'm positive I can answer that question myself!! Every Australian taxpayer of course! The 1996 buyback was funded by a temporary, one-off increase in the Medicare Levy from 1.5% to 1.7%. How will any proposed buyback be funded this time around and what relevance would it have to Medicare? Where are the cost forecasts for a national firearm buyback? There is a very simple alternative. Don't waste money on a buy back that targets law abiding firearm owners and the very possessions they have worked hard (and paid GST) to afford. Instead spend the equivalent funds of the buyback on security departments and ASIO to better do their jobs by stopping extremism, maintain intelligence sharing, and deport radical extremists who hate the Australian culture and way of life.

Alternative policy-

We don't need a costly buy back. Tasmania maintains a permanent firearms amnesty allowing residents to surrender unregistered, illegal, or unwanted firearms, firearm parts, and ammunition without penalty or fear of prosecution for possession. This permanent amnesty means that criminals, terrorists and 'would be' criminals and terrorists will willingly hand in voluntarily any unregistered firearms which they intend to cause harm in the community with no questions asked.

Arbitrary caps on firearms- Where is there evidence that a cap on firearms an individual's owns has any influence on the safety of the public. If there is evidence and statistics that show there is a marked increase in public safety by limiting the amount of legally owned and correctly stored firearms, where is this information to be found? The number of firearms a person can own should be reflective of the need for each firearm, which is completed during a 'permit to acquire' application. There is no single one firearm that can be used for multiple discipline sports, occupations or rural use. If there is a demonstrated need for any number of firearms and they are stored according to legislative requirements where is there a problem with this? Where else in society is there any caps in what any one person can legally possess? Why should people be restricted on what they purchase and spend their earned money on?

Alternative policy- Don't have caps on the number of firearms an individual can own. Base the number on an individual's 'permit to acquire' and current genuine reasons for needing the firearms that they own.

Pre-election firearm reform policies- Members of parliament should be made to put their firearms policies on the table for voters to see **BEFORE** elections. How can members of the public vote with any confidence not knowing when changes that negatively affect their chosen recreation, business or occupation. Give the voting public the opportunity to see which members have their best overall interests. Now the public are potentially in a position where their own personal possessions could be taken from them against their will in a so called 'buy back'. Some voters may have in fact voted in a different way given they have been blindsided by government posturing gun confiscation and increasing fines rather than tackling the real problem of criminals and terrorism.

In summary- These firearm legislative changes designed to keep the public safe appears more like political posturing dressed up as reform. Attempting to put harsher penalties on licenced firearm owners who want to do the right thing is not the answer. There is nothing in the legislation that targets extremism, or terrorism, the very thing that caused the Bondi incident. If the focus is on keeping firearms out of the hands of terrorists there is nothing in these new changes that address that and it is all about trying to penalise law abiding licence holders by reclassification, put caps on firearms, change magazine limits and mandatorily take peoples possessions under the guise of a 'buy back' of people's possessions which aren't for sale.

The timing of this consultation is extremely poor given there is no mention of the 'fair and affordable' buyback of firearms owners don't necessarily want. If firearm owners want their firearms bought, they will legitimately sell them themselves without any meddling by the government. The disbandment of the firearms consultative committee is further evidence that politicians have scant regard for the opinions of the firearm community and the people they represent, which know far more than any government ever would about good firearm management.

To this end I firmly believe that asking for feedback through these submissions regarding firearm reform is looking to appear like the government is 'listening'. I'm sure that decisions have already been made about firearm reform and I'm also sure that when it comes time for firearm owners in the state to decide who they vote for they won't be forgetting the Tasmanian politicians who sold them out.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 4 August 2026 10:11 AM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Firearms amendment Bill 2026

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

I support

- Stronger penalties for stealing firearms
- Stronger penalties and mandatory minimums for possessing stolen firearms
- Laws that actually target criminals and terrorists

I oppose

- Reclassifying straight-pull and lever/button-release centre-fire rifles and shotguns to Category C
- New detachable magazine limits on Category A and B firearms
- Making Australian citizenship the default for a firearms licence
- Restrictive lending rules that require National Firearms Register verification
- 24-hour notification if a firearm is stored away from the registered address
- Cutting the interstate Category A/B transfer window from three months to seven days
- Expanding inspection powers to anyone in possession of a firearm
- National Firearms Register real-time notification and verification rules
- Continued reliance on broad Commissioner exemptions instead of clear legislation

Key reasons

- Straight-pull and lever/button-release firearms are practical for hunting and pest control. No Tasmanian evidence shows they are a public safety risk when held by licensed people.
- Many straight-pull rifles are historical with limited capacity. Reclassifying them destroys irreplaceable firearms.
- New magazine limits on Category A and B have no proven safety benefit. Criminals ignore magazine rules.
- Citizenship as the default creates unnecessary barriers and human-rights issues.
- Tasmania should recognise equivalent overseas licences to support regional tourism and hunting.
- Lending between two licensed people should not need NFR checks.
- The 24-hour storage rule is impractical for multi-day pest control and farm work.
- The National Firearms Register creates a high-value target for hackers after major Australian data breaches.
- Suppressors are occupational health and safety equipment, not silent weapons.

I oppose any changes in Tasmania that aren't going after criminals

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 3 August 2026 8:30 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Firearms Amendment Bill 2026

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

I [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] Tasmania, Formally oppose any changes in Tasmania that are not going after criminals.

[REDACTED]
3.8.2026.

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 4 August 2026 10:11 AM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Firearm reforms

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

I am writing regarding the new proposed firearms reforms put forward by the Tasmanian Parliament and their unelected bureaucrats.

I am absolutely opposed to any reforms that do not target criminals. Reclassifying straight pull, button and lever release firearms and placing caps on law abiding firearms owners will do absolutely nothing for community safety and is only targeting those that follow the laws.

Criminals do not follow laws they don't care what classification a firearm is they will get one if they want it.

Minimum sentences for stealing or possessing an illegal firearm or for possessing a firearm without a current license are a must and I'm sorry but 3 months is a joke try 3 to 5 years.

Again I am opposed to any changes to the current Tasmanian firearms legislation that solely targets law abiding firearms owners.

Regards
[REDACTED]

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 4 August 2026 6:26 AM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Fire arms

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED] Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

I would like the limit of firearms to stay as it is due to the fact that when I go hunting I always take more than one calibre depending on what and where I'm hunting so I have proper set ups for each hunting situation for ethical harvesting of what I wish to take home and feed my family. Also when my children are old enough I may need to add to my collection of fire arms to have them comfortably use fire arms. In say children use fire arms I started at roughly 4 yrs old learnt how to remove bolts and clean fire arms and how to check chambers are clear before I got to fire one but I learnt with my grand father and father with an old 15 shot .22 semi automatic rifle I still remember the day I first shot the bottom out of an old ice cream container I would like law changed for children to join SSAA clubs and shoot, those memories and lessons I learnt are forever etched in me. Thanks for reading Sent from my iPhone

Submission in Response to the Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026

I oppose the proposed Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026 and do not support the introduction of further restrictions on law-abiding firearms owners.

Tasmania already has a comprehensive and highly regulated firearms licensing system. Licensed firearm owners are subject to extensive background checks, genuine reason requirements, secure storage obligations, licence renewals, and ongoing compliance monitoring. These measures have created a system where lawful firearm ownership is already tightly controlled.

The proposed amendments appear to place additional obligations on those who already comply with the law, while providing little evidence that they will reduce criminal offending or improve community safety. Individuals who intend to commit violent crimes have already demonstrated a willingness to ignore existing laws. Consequently, additional restrictions on licensed owners are unlikely to deter criminal behaviour.

Magazine Capacity Restrictions

The proposed magazine capacity limits do not appear to be supported by evidence demonstrating that they will reduce firearm crime in Tasmania.

For many licensed firearm owners, including primary producers and those undertaking pest and vermin control, larger-capacity magazines have legitimate practical uses. Restricting magazine capacity does not remove that operational need. Instead, it simply requires users to purchase and carry a greater number of compliant magazines, increasing cost and inconvenience without addressing criminal misuse.

If the objective is to improve public safety, the Government should clearly demonstrate how these restrictions are expected to reduce crime by offenders who are already willing to ignore firearms laws.

Recategorisation of Straight-Pull and Lever-Release Firearms

The proposal to reclassify straight-pull and lever-release centrefire rifles and shotguns into Category C will effectively prohibit ownership by the overwhelming majority of licensed firearm owners.

These firearms remain manually operated. The shooter must manually cycle the action between every shot. While the mechanism differs from a conventional bolt-action rifle, they are fundamentally different from self-loading (semi-automatic) firearms.

The consultation material does not clearly demonstrate that these firearms present a substantially greater risk than existing Category B firearms, nor does it explain why recategorisation is proportionate to the risk.

Given the timing of these reforms following the Bondi tragedy, there is concern that this proposal has been influenced by a single high-profile incident rather than evidence demonstrating an ongoing public safety risk associated with these firearm types. Permanent legislative changes should be based on robust evidence and long-term public safety outcomes rather than responses to isolated events.

Notification of Temporary Storage

The proposal requiring licence holders to notify Tasmania Police whenever firearms are stored at another location for more than 24 hours would create a significant administrative burden for both firearm owners and Tasmania Police.

Responsible firearm owners frequently travel for several days while hunting, camping, participating in sporting competitions or undertaking pest management on rural properties. During these trips firearms may be lawfully stored at another secure location.

Requiring notification every time this occurs would generate a large volume of administrative work while offering little demonstrated improvement in public safety.

If this proposal proceeds, a far more practical approach should be adopted to minimise unnecessary bureaucracy and ensure that Tasmania Police resources remain focused on preventing and investigating crime rather than processing notifications from compliant licence holders.

Focus on the Causes of Violent Crime

The overwhelming majority of licensed firearm owners never commit violent offences.

Rather than continually imposing additional restrictions on those who already comply with the law, greater investment should be directed towards addressing the underlying causes of serious violence.

This includes:

- improving access to mental health services and early intervention
- identifying and disrupting violent extremist ideologies of all forms
- targeting organised crime and illegal firearm trafficking
- increasing penalties for firearm theft and possession of stolen firearms; and
- ensuring police have the resources to investigate and prosecute serious offenders.

Government resources should be directed toward people who present a genuine risk to the community rather than increasing regulatory burdens on responsible citizens.

Preserving Individual Freedom

A free society requires governments to carefully balance public safety with individual liberty.

Every new restriction imposed on law-abiding citizens should be supported by clear evidence that it will produce a measurable improvement in community safety. Where that evidence is lacking, governments should be cautious about introducing additional regulation that increases costs, reduces personal freedoms, and creates unnecessary administrative burdens.

Responsible firearm ownership has long been part of Tasmania's rural communities, primary production, recreational hunting, sporting shooting and conservation activities. These legitimate pursuits should not be made more difficult unless there is compelling evidence that doing so will improve public safety.

Conclusion

The proposed amendments appear to increase costs, bureaucracy and restrictions for responsible firearm owners while providing limited evidence that they will reduce criminal offending.

I respectfully request that the Government reconsider these measures and instead focus legislative and financial resources on combating illegal firearm trafficking, organised crime, violent extremism, firearm theft and improving mental health services. These initiatives are more likely to produce meaningful improvements in community safety than imposing further restrictions on licensed firearms owners.

I therefore respectfully request that the Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026 not proceed in its current form.

Professional Perspective

I make this submission not only as a licensed firearm owner, but also as an Intensive Care Flight Paramedic with more than a decade of experience responding to critically injured patients across Tasmania.

Throughout my career I have witnessed the devastating consequences of violence and trauma. In my own clinical experience, I have treated significantly more patients suffering serious injuries from assaults involving edged weapons than from incidents involving legally owned firearms.

While my personal experience does not replace statewide crime statistics, it has reinforced my view that public safety initiatives should be directed towards the underlying causes of violence—including violent offending, organised crime, substance abuse, severe mental illness and violent

extremism—rather than placing additional restrictions on licensed firearm owners who already comply with extensive regulatory requirements.

Thank you for your time



Feedback on the Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026.

Introduction:

I am a retired ADF member of 47 years' service. I have owned firearms since I was 16 years old and have been a licenced firearms owner in four states of Australia. I request that the Tasmania Police and Government when making changes to the Act, take into account, the unique issues (below) pertaining to ADF personnel.

Australia wide firearm registration and licencing: Having to undergo licencing and firearm registration when posting to a different State or Territory is both time consuming and financially burdensome. I, and all ADF personnel would welcome Australia wide firearm registration and licencing. For ADF personnel on posting to a State, must comply with General conditions of a licence. Example - dealing with notification of address. Compliance with Section 46 and 56 are very difficult. Why? When an ADF member posts to a new location, it can take several months for the member to be allocated a residence (address). This is totally out of the member's control. To comply, ADF Firearms owners must rely on surrendering their firearms to a licenced dealer, having a friend or relative (properly licenced with compliant storage) secure the firearms, or pay to have them stored (authorised person/dealer) and freighted (authorised company) to the new address when they have it. This all comes with cost. Therefore, I request that a provision be made to accommodate this fact under Section 46, Section 56.

Australia wide firearm registration: ADF personnel, who have moved State, would welcome Australia wide registration. This should require notification of change of address to the Commonwealth registering Authority instead of the overwhelming process of each State. Assuming that the intention of the policing jurisdictions in Australia are willing to have a central firearms registry.

Licencing: All ADF personnel, Permanent or Reserve, must undergo weapons (firearm) training every 12 months or every time they use a weapon. Weapon (firearm) handling and safety. There are several institutions offering a wide variety of firearm safety training courses. I request that the Commissioner discuss with State and Territory commissioners that ADF personnel be exempt from the firearms handling segment of a course and only require an online training and evaluation course with National Accreditation. . The ADF member would be required to provide proof of weapons (firearm) handling currency. Example: **11357NAT** Course in Firearms Safety (approved for Firearms Licensing in Tasmania)

Purpose of the proposed amendments: (From Tasmania Police Website)

The purpose of the amendments is to ready the *Firearms Act 1996* for the introduction of the National Firearms Register (NFR) and in the wake of the tragic Bondi incident in 2025 to introduce measures to improve community safety.

The NFR is intended to provide law enforcement agencies with near real-time access to accurate information about registered firearms, firearm licences, permits and other relevant records across Australia.

From a community safety perspective, the NFR is expected to strengthen both public and police safety. It will assist in preventing firearms from being diverted into illicit markets, improve the identification of firearms linked to criminal activity*, enhance intelligence sharing between jurisdictions, and provide frontline police with better information when responding to incidents involving firearms.

- **Comment***. I very much doubt this statement. Legitimate firearm owners take all legislated and practical precautions to ensure safe storage and conveyance of firearms IAW the current Act/Regulations. Criminals target firearms when they think they can make money from the resale to other criminals or from a buy back scheme as recommended. Handing in a firearm, without proof of ownership/registration, is instant cash to a criminal.

The *Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026* includes reclassification and citizenship provisions that will require a buyback of affected firearms. These provisions are relevant to ongoing negotiations with the Australian Government regarding funding for a buy back scheme. *

***Comment.** Only if proof of ownership is established as point of surrender.

The consultation bill should be read in conjunction with the consultation information sheet that outlines the background and the proposed amendments, and the prepared question and answers.

Recommendations:

Remove the States and Territories the responsibility firearms registration. Australia wide firearms registration. Establish a Commonwealth firearms registry. 24/7 State and Federal police access.

Special provisions for Australian Defence Force personnel regarding licencing and notification periods.

Proposed buy back schemes only available to legitimate firearm owners. Continue with Non-buy back open firearm amnesties across the country.

Mandatory minimum penalties for firearm theft.

Mandatory minimum penalties for criminal firearm possession and use. **END**

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 4 August 2026 8:19 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Firearms Amendment bill

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Sir,s M,ams,

I am recommending that existing laws are sufficient. They just need to be properly enforced. The focus of Law enforcement should be on criminal activity.

Law abiding licensed firearm owners are already subject to strict controls.

As for the proposal on machetes(no definition yet) any object can be used as a weapon in the wrong hands!

Once again the focus of the Law should be to punish criminal behavior.

This proposal should be scrapped.

Yours Sincerely

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Tas.

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 17 July 2026 9:37 AM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Consultation on the Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Good morning

Let me state in the strongest terms: The current firearms legislation in Tasmania is wholly adequate for its purpose and requires no further amendments, ESPECIALLY where any amendment restricts licenced, law abiding firearms owners further.

I instead propose the following as the inception of a policy position using current legislation:

I support stronger measures targeting firearm-related crime through reforms to sentencing, bail, and parole under the *Criminal Code Act 1924*, the *Bail Act 1994*, and the *Sentencing Act 1997*.

Where a firearm is stolen, possessed knowing it to be stolen, or present or used in the commission of any crime or offence, courts should be directed to give strong consideration to imposing the maximum penalty available under the Criminal Code. In addition, there should be a presumption of refusal of bail (or automatic show cause requirement) for all such matters, ensuring offenders remain in custody pending determination of the charges.

Parole eligibility for these offences should be strictly limited, with courts empowered under the *Sentencing Act 1997* (s17) to bar or extend non-parole periods.

Strongly encouraging the application of maximum penalties is more effective than mandatory minimum sentences. This approach allows the judiciary to apply the full force of the law while retaining appropriate discretion to account for genuine differences in the circumstances of the offence and the offender. It drives sentencing outcomes toward the upper end of the available range in nearly all firearms cases without the rigidity of mandatory minimums, which can produce disproportionate results, provoke unnecessary appeals, or lead to jury reluctance in borderline cases. In practice, mandatory minimums are frequently negotiated around; a clear legislative expectation that maximum penalties should be imposed where firearms are involved is more effective at changing sentencing culture while preserving judicial independence and public confidence.

These reforms would create a powerful deterrent. Offenders currently treat firearm theft and armed crime as low-risk activities due to lenient outcomes, ready access to bail, and early release on parole. Refusal of bail removes immediate liberty, while the consistent application of maximum penalties ensures substantial custodial time. This significantly increases both the certainty and severity of consequences.

I urge the Government to implement these targeted reforms to sentencing, bail, and parole to more effectively deter firearm-related offending in Tasmania.

The legislation is in place already. It simply requires effective enforcement and application.

I am available to discuss this submission at your convenience.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 15 July 2026 10:49 AM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Firearm Changes - my feedback to proposed changes

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

Thank you for emailing me as a stakeholder to provide a submission re: the changes to the firearms act.

After considering the proposed changes to the firearms act, please find below my thoughts:

- 1)** I think that anyone who has had even one DVO etc, in the past or present, should undergo regular ongoing monthly psychological treatment to curb anger management etc, at their own cost, if the decision is that they are able to retain their gun license. The treatment should remain as long as the person retains the gun license;
- 2)** If the police are called to a situation where is a family violence disturbance happens and there is a gun owner in the family, then the guns need to be taken away even if the situation does not result in a DVO. Again psychological assessment mentioned in point 1) should be undertaken;
- 3)** it seems a logical point about having to be an Australian Citizen and a Tasmanian resident to hold a Tasmanian Firearm license, but it does maybe need to have an amendment to the Tasmanian Anti-Discrimination Act (ADA) 1998 - unless there may be provisions already within the ADA that allow such discrimination to happen.

Personally I don't see a problem with restricting firearm licenses to Australian citizens and Tasmanian residence. I am simply flagging that my expertise in the discrimination area sees this as a point to provide feedback on.

The above are my thoughts after reading the consultation documents. I am happy to expand on the above if needed.

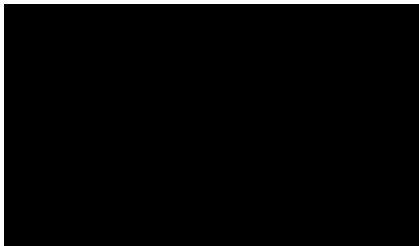
Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback.

[REDACTED]

INDIVIDUAL CONSULTATION SUBMISSION

Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026

Prepared in response to the Tasmanian Government consultation

**LOCATION**

Launceston

BACKGROUND OR INTEREST

licensed firearm owner

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Submission summary

Overall, this submission supports 14 amendments, opposes 5, is unsure about 2, and records no comment on 0.

14 SUPPORT	5 OPPOSE	2 UNSURE	0 NO COMMENT
1 OPPOSE	2 SUPPORT	3 SUPPORT	
4 SUPPORT	5 SUPPORT	6 SUPPORT	
7 OPPOSE	8 SUPPORT	9 SUPPORT	
10 OPPOSE	11 SUPPORT	12 SUPPORT	
13 SUPPORT	14 SUPPORT	15 SUPPORT	
16 UNSURE	17 OPPOSE	18 OPPOSE	
19 UNSURE	20 SUPPORT	21 SUPPORT	

AMENDMENT 1**OPPOSE****Reclassification of straight-pull and button/lever-release centre-fire rifles and shotguns, including lever-action shotguns****Concerns that have been raised**

- Classification should be based on evidence rather than appearance, public reaction to specific events, or theoretical differences in cycling speed.
- Category C access is significantly more restricted and the proposal could prevent ordinary licence holders from continuing to own firearms that may have substantial financial or sentimental value.
- The proposal may impose substantial cost on lawful owners without a demonstrated public-safety benefit proportionate to that impact.
- a faster rate of fire and magazine capacity is directly related to the human despatching of animals. particularly where large numbers of game present themselves at the same point in time

Suggested alternatives

- More targeted enforcement against unlawful possession.
- A narrower amendment focused on the identified risk.

AMENDMENT 2**SUPPORT****Australian citizenship as the default firearms-licensing requirement****Reasons given in support**

- Citizenship may provide a clearer long-term connection to Australia.

AMENDMENT 3**SUPPORT****Restriction on on-lending firearms****Reasons given in support**

- It keeps the registered owner closer to the person actually possessing the firearm.
- It may reduce confusion about where a firearm is located.
- It may reduce the chance of loss, misplacement or unauthorised possession.

AMENDMENT 4**SUPPORT****Verification of borrower licence and storage****Reasons given in support**

- It promotes responsible lending and lawful storage.
- It may prevent accidental lending to a suspended, expired or unsuitable licence holder.

AMENDMENT 5**SUPPORT****Nationally consistent firearm terminology****Reasons given in support**

- Consistent terminology may improve interstate data sharing and administration.
- Modern definitions can reduce confusion.
- Alignment may assist implementation of the National Firearms Register.

AMENDMENT 6**SUPPORT****Clarification of firearm and firearm-part definitions****Reasons given in support**

- Clear definitions can close genuine loopholes involving incomplete or disassembled firearms.
- Clarity may improve enforcement and reduce inconsistent interpretation.
- Modern definitions can better reflect contemporary manufacturing and technology.

AMENDMENT 7**OPPOSE****Notification of storage away from the owner's residence****Concerns that have been raised**

- A 24-hour threshold may be impractical for hunting trips, competitions, work, repairs or emergencies.
- The rule should focus on the primary storage location rather than brief lawful travel.
- Repeated notifications may create administrative burden without improving physical security.

Suggested alternatives

- More targeted enforcement against unlawful possession.

AMENDMENT 8**SUPPORT****Notification before changing residential address****Reasons given in support**

- Advance notice may help keep licence and storage-location records accurate.
- The 'as soon as practicable' exception recognises unexpected moves.

AMENDMENT 9**SUPPORT****Expanded authority for firearms dealer employees****Reasons given in support**

- It may improve practical business operation and staffing flexibility.
- Licensed and vetted employees could handle routine transactions.
- Clear authority may reduce uncertainty under the current law.

AMENDMENT 10**OPPOSE****Seven-day Tasmanian licence application for new interstate residents****Concerns that have been raised**

- Seven days is very short during a household move and may be difficult where documents or appointments are unavailable.
- A 28- or 30-day period may achieve compliance without unnecessary technical offences.
- Interstate licences should remain recognised while a timely Tasmanian application is processed.

AMENDMENT 11**SUPPORT****Advance notice of changes in personal particulars****Reasons given in support**

- It could support identity and contact verification.
- A consistent digital process could make updates straightforward.

AMENDMENT 12**SUPPORT****Production of firearms for police inspection****Reasons given in support**

- It prevents the inspection power being defeated merely because the owner is absent.
- It may assist police in verifying a firearm's identity and lawful possession.
- The rule reflects that a borrower has physical control of the firearm.

AMENDMENT 13**SUPPORT****Possession of stolen firearms offence and penalty****Reasons given in support**

- Stolen firearms present a serious public-safety risk and stronger penalties may be justified.

AMENDMENT 14**SUPPORT****Alternative conviction for possession of stolen firearms****Reasons given in support**

- It may avoid a complete acquittal where serious proven conduct falls short of trafficking.
- The lesser offence would still need to be proven.

AMENDMENT 15**SUPPORT****Summary trial option for unlawful firearms trafficking****Reasons given in support**

- Consent from both parties protects choice of forum.
- Suitable cases may be resolved more quickly and efficiently.
- It may reduce higher-court delay and cost.

AMENDMENT 16**UNSURE****New summary offence of stealing a firearm or firearm part****Reasons for remaining unsure**

- The practical effect on lawful owners is not yet clear.

AMENDMENT 17**Expansion of firearm prohibition orders****OPPOSE****Concerns that have been raised**

- The definition of firearm part must be precise and proportionate.
- Incidental possession of generic items should not create unfair liability.

AMENDMENT 18**Magazine ammunition-capacity limits for Category A and B firearms****OPPOSE****Concerns that have been raised**

- The government should publish evidence linking affected magazine capacities to Tasmanian crime risk.
- Limits may have little effect on criminals using stolen or prohibited firearms.
- The proposal may impose costs on sporting shooters, hunters and primary producers.
- Capacity rules must address fixed magazines, tubular magazines and lawful competition use clearly.

AMENDMENT 19**Updated identification requirements for licence applications****UNSURE****Reasons for remaining unsure**

- I need more evidence or detail before deciding.

AMENDMENT 20**Three-month mandatory minimum imprisonment for stolen-firearm offences****SUPPORT****Reasons given in support**

- Stealing or knowingly possessing a stolen firearm is serious and creates community risk.
- A minimum sentence may express strong denunciation and provide consistency.
- The measure is directed at criminal firearm diversion.

AMENDMENT 21**Electronic firearms dealer record keeping****SUPPORT****Reasons given in support**

- Electronic records may improve accuracy, searchability and reporting.
- It can reduce duplication and administrative burden.
- Digital records support timely National Firearms Register updates.

Further suggestions

- Publish the evidence relied upon for each firearm reclassification and explain the expected public-safety benefit.
- Provide clear grandfathering, compensation and transition arrangements for owners of firearms or magazines that are currently lawful.
- Review each affected firearm type individually rather than grouping manually operated actions together without demonstrated evidence of equivalent risk.
- Increase penalties for stealing firearms or assisting firearm theft.
- Increase resources for investigating illegal firearm trafficking and unlawful possession.

Closing comments

- I support amendments that have a demonstrated and proportionate public-safety benefit, but I do not support changes based primarily on optics, political pressure or unsupported assumptions.
- This legislation should not proceed unchanged until storage-law weaknesses, transition arrangements and the evidence supporting reclassification have been properly addressed.
- Some amendments may make a real difference to community safety, while others may unfairly affect lawful owners without a demonstrated reduction in risk.
- Lawful firearm ownership and criminal misuse should be treated as separate policy questions, with restrictions directed at the actual source of harm.
- The final legislation should strike a fair balance between community safety and the rights and responsibilities of people already complying with the law.

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 3 August 2026 6:21 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Proposed gun laws

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

To whom this may concern.

I do not agree with the proposed changes to the gun laws. I feel it is targeting those doing the right thing and not those who are doing the wrong thing.

[REDACTED]

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 7 August 2026 8:08 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Gun laws

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED] Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Good evening

I am very happy with the gun laws sitting at the present, disappointed if they do cap the amount of guns and yes there should be recommendations regarding non Australian citizens holding gun licenses

Regards [REDACTED]
Sent from my iPad

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 1 August 2026 9:51 AM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: CONSULTATION ON THE FIREARMS AMENDMENT (MISCELLANEOUS) BILL 2026 [renamed]

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Tasmanian Government Representative,

This letter is intended for all listed representatives in Hobart.

I am writing as a licensed firearm owner and supporter of lawful shooting, hunting, and outdoor recreation to express my concerns about the proposed changes to Tasmania's firearm laws and the impact they may have on responsible, law-abiding firearm owners.

I strongly support safe, responsible firearm ownership and believe that public safety should always be a priority. Licensed firearm owners already undergo extensive background checks, waiting periods, secure storage requirements, and ongoing compliance measures. These obligations demonstrate the high standards expected of those who legally own firearms in Tasmania.

My concern is that any changes to firearm legislation should be based on clear evidence and demonstrable public safety outcomes, rather than public perception or political pressure. Policy should focus on those who commit firearm-related offences and traffic illegal firearms, not those who have already met strict licensing and compliance requirements.

I also ask that the following issues be carefully considered:

- Whether public resources would be better directed towards combating illegal firearm trafficking, strengthening border enforcement, and addressing repeat violent offenders.
- The important role firearms play for farmers, landholders, hunters, and pest controllers in protecting livestock, managing invasive species, and caring for rural properties.
- The broader impact these changes may have on sporting shooters, collectors, clubs, ranges, dealers, trainers, event organisers, and regional businesses that contribute to Tasmania's economy and communities.

These proposed changes could have significant consequences for responsible individuals, families, sporting organisations, rural communities, and businesses across Tasmania. I believe those who have consistently demonstrated safe and lawful firearm ownership deserve genuine consultation before further restrictions are introduced.

I respectfully ask that, as a representative, you oppose measures that unnecessarily burden law-abiding firearm owners, support meaningful consultation with affected communities, and advocate for practical, evidence-based policies that target criminal misuse of firearms rather than compliant licence holders.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my concerns. I would appreciate a written response outlining your position on these proposed firearm law changes.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 2 August 2026 8:08 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Firearms Amendment

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

Looks good.

Just one suggestion; the creation of a national firearms registry should enable firearms owners to travel interstate with more assurance that their firearms are properly registered and accounted for.

Because of this, the following provision seems to be an overreach;

"A resident from interstate who intends to reside in Tasmania will now have 7 days to apply for a Tasmanian licence across all categories. Previously Category A, B licence holders had 3 months."

The proposed legislation already requires owners to notify of a change of address within 24 hours. Surely this time period could be standardised across all States. That would mean firearms are properly tracked.

It does not seem that changing the time frame to apply for a Tasmanian licence adds anything to help track firearms.

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 7 August 2026 9:08 AM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Submission – Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Minister and Members of Parliament,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026 and to ask that the Government carefully reconsider the proposed changes.

I fully support the objective of keeping Tasmanians safe. I also understand the responsibility that comes with lawful firearm ownership and support strong laws that prevent firearms from falling into the hands of people who pose a genuine risk to the community.

However, I do not believe that imposing further restrictions on responsible, licensed firearm owners is the right way to achieve that objective.

Australia already has some of the strictest firearm laws in the world. Licensed owners are subject to background checks, licensing requirements, genuine-reason requirements, registration, strict storage obligations and police oversight. The focus should be on enforcing those laws and addressing people who deliberately break them, rather than continually increasing restrictions on those who comply.

This issue is particularly important to me because many of the firearms I lawfully own (including those proposed to be reclassified, as such a straight-pull firearm) were left to me by my father after he passed away from cancer at only 60 years of age.

I was just 25 when I lost him. I was unmarried and had no children, and I never expected that I would have to navigate so much of my adult life without him.

The firearms he left to me are not simply possessions. They are one of the few tangible connections I have left to my father. They represent the values he taught me of responsibility, respect for the law, safety, discipline and respect for the outdoors.

I am now recently married, and my husband and I are thinking about having children. It is incredibly important to me that one day I can tell my children about their grandfather and share with them some of the things he passed down to me.

I want my children to understand that firearm ownership is not about violence. It is about responsibility, respect and understanding that owning a firearm carries serious obligations.

For that reason, the prospect of legislation changing in a way that could prevent me from retaining firearms that were lawfully inherited from my father is deeply upsetting. No buyback payment could replace their sentimental value or the connection they provide to him.

I understand that laws sometimes need to change. However, where a person has lawfully obtained and responsibly maintained firearms under the laws that applied at the time, I believe there should be a very high threshold before the Government removes that property from them.

I am also concerned about the proposed National Firearms Register, particularly the proposed ability to maintain near-real-time information about where firearms are stored.

I understand that the register is intended to assist law enforcement and is not intended to be a public database. Nevertheless, I believe the Government needs to carefully consider the consequences of creating and centralising such sensitive information.

Information identifying who owns firearms, how many they own and where those firearms are stored is highly sensitive. If that information were ever compromised, misused or accessed by an unauthorised person, it could potentially create a significant security risk for responsible firearm owners.

The recent Coles Bay incident, in which a firearm owner was reportedly assaulted and forced to reveal the location of his firearms safe before firearms were stolen, demonstrates that firearm storage information can itself be valuable to criminals.

More broadly, Australians have seen repeated data breaches affecting government and other organisations. The fact that information is held by government does not make it immune from compromise.

I therefore question whether creating a larger, interconnected database of firearm ownership and storage information is proportionate to the benefit it provides.

Tasmania Police already has firearm registration information and existing powers to inspect firearms and investigate compliance. Before creating additional databases containing more detailed location information, the Government should demonstrate why the existing framework cannot achieve the necessary outcome.

I strongly support action against people who steal firearms, traffic firearms or illegally possess them. Those are the people who should be the focus of stronger enforcement.

A responsible, licensed firearm owner who complies with storage, registration and licensing requirements should not be treated in the same way as someone who deliberately obtains or uses a firearm unlawfully.

I respectfully ask the Government to ensure that any further changes are evidence-based and proportionate, and that they genuinely address the causes of firearm-related harm rather than simply increasing the regulatory burden on people who are already complying with the law.

I ask that the proposed reclassification of currently lawful firearms, additional restrictions on responsible owners and expansion of sensitive firearm-location information be reconsidered.

My firearms are part of my family history. They are a connection to my father that I hope to preserve and, one day, share with my children.

I respectfully ask that this personal impact, alongside the broader concerns about proportionality, enforcement and information security, be taken into account when considering this Bill.

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Introduction

In preparing this submission I am conscious of addressing the proposed amendments to the Firearms Act 1996 that have been put forward by the Tasmanian government. However, there is the ongoing discomfort that in the background the opposition and crossbenchers are proposing to lodge their own amendments once the Firearms Act is open for discussion on the floor of Parliament. It is disconcerting to think that they will be able to have their say without any scrutiny or input from the general public. This whole process could be a total waste of time if their proposals are lodged without proper consultation resulting in a Firearms Act that is less workable than the current.

My submission addresses the 21 points listed in the Consultation Information Sheet.

1. Reclassification of straight pull and button/lever release centre-fire rifles and shotguns to the more restrictive Category C licence.

This appears to be an unfortunate knee jerk reaction from the Federal Government. However, there needs to be a more accurate definition of “*straight pull action firearm*” in Section 3 of the Act (interpretation). The proposed amendment could inadvertently include “*pump action*” firearms as there appears to be no current definition of these firearms.

As such, proposed amendments to the Act should either include a definition of “*pump action firearm*” or add to the proposed amendment a sub-section; (c) *does not include pump action firearms where the firearm is cycled using a sliding pump mechanism under the barrel to chamber rounds*

- (p) by inserting the following definitions after the definition of *sell*:

straight pull action firearm means a
centre-fire firearm –

- (a) where the pull action of the firearm is cycled, using a linear motion on a handle, bolt or other part of the firearm; and
- (b) that does not require any rotation of the handle, bolt or similar part of the firearm during the unlocking and locking of the firearm, such as in the cycling action of a traditional bolt action repeating firearm;

2. Establishing Australian citizenship as the default eligibility requirement for firearms licensing, with provisions for limited exemptions for New Zealand citizens in defined circumstances such as primary production, or if granted an exemption from this requirement by the Commissioner of Police.

Once again this appears to be a knee jerk reaction from the Federal Government. Considering the alleged living protagonists of Australia's 2 largest firearms related incidents are Australian citizens.

However, if this amendment is to be seriously considered it should also consider the following;

- A significant number of firearms licence holding members of the sports shooting club that I am a member of do not have Australian Citizenship. Regardless of the proposal, it seems unfair that a person that has undergone a background check and has been deemed a "*fit and proper person*" will be denied the option to "renew" their current licence when it expires if they do not have Australian Citizenship. The very fabric of our club has been enhanced by these people enjoying an activity that was probably unavailable to them in the country they have come from. To me it seems unfair, un-Australian, discriminatory and racist to impose this restriction on law abiding residents of our country.
- Could consideration be given to existing firearm licence holders to not be required to meet this imposition?
- Could consideration be given to introducing a "restricted" or "provisional" firearms licence where persons undergo the other requirements of obtaining a firearms licence but are not permitted to buy firearms or ammunition. This would allow non-citizens to participate in the sport of shooting by using equipment and ammunition supplied by sports shooting clubs. This is no different from the current "Club Exemption" or "Minors Permit" system that is currently in place.

3. Currently registered firearms can be lent between licensed firearms owners and then on lent to a third party. The proposed amendment will permit lending from a firearms owner to a second person but restrict on lending that firearm to a third party. This will lessen the likelihood of firearms being lost or misplaced.

It is good that there appears to be some attempt to clear up and tighten the lending of firearms between firearm licence holders. Unfortunately, what has been proposed is still in conflict with Section 110 of the Firearms Act, "*Unlawful trafficking in firearms*". With the current wording of Section 110, a lendee or borrower is in contravention of the Act as soon as they take possession of a firearm that is not registered to them.

I know of other persons that are addressing this specific anomaly so I will not continue other than to say Section 110 of the Act needs review.

Consideration must also be given to the situation where a firearm owned by a sports shooting club and registered to an individual may be lent to another person to take to a firing range for the purpose of instruction, training or coaching of a third person who may be issued with a "Club Exemption" or "Minors Permit".

4. A person who lends a firearm must satisfy themselves that the borrower's licence is valid and has appropriate and lawful storage facilities. To facilitate this several definitions have been added to support the implementation of the NFR, including 'lend', 'borrow', 'on-lend' and 'verify'.

I suggest also that there be a requirement that the lendee or borrower "satisfy themselves that the firearm they are about to take possession of is registered"

I suggest that the definition of "on-lend" be included in Section 3, Interpretation, of the Act

5. Several definitions are to be amended for national consistency, such as pistol amended to 'handgun' and 'firearm sound suppressor' to 'suppressor'.

This makes sense and will be a good outcome.

6. The definition of 'firearm' and 'firearm part' are to be clarified following the receipt of expert advice.

This topic was addressed during the 2010 – 2015 amendments to Act.

Hopefully the outcome will be meaningful and consistent, with alignment to the NFR and other jurisdictions

7. If firearms are intended to be stored at a location other than the residential address of the registered owner for period greater than 24 hours, the owner will need to notify Tasmania Police.

This makes sense and gives purpose to the NFR

Needs to be good clarification of the terms "Stored" and "in use".

If firearms are to be taken to a weekend shooting competition, hunting trip or potentially interstate for similar activities, the firearms will be in use, in possession, but not necessarily "Stored" at another location.

Hopefully this can be addressed or clarified in the Act.

8. If a firearms owner intends to change residential address, the owner must notify Tasmania Police 24 hours before that change of address, or as soon as practicable after that change is made.

The proposed wording of S.46 of the Act is more restrictive than that suggested above.

Both paragraph (ba) and (bb) state that notification must occur **no later than 24 hours** after the changes are made.

Without an "out" clause in this section, it is highly probable that a licensee could be prosecuted if their house, for example, is damaged by fire, flood or tempest and they are

not in a position to notify the Commissioner of their change of address or temporary firearms storage location.

Further to this, what is an “approved form” of notification? If telecommunications services are damaged, the only way to notify may be by mail and this is not likely to reach the Commissioner within 24 hours.

Consideration needs to be given to the possibility that 24 hours notice post event is unreasonable.

S.46 (ba) proposed wording of amendment

(ba) the licensee must notify the Commissioner in an approved form of any change in the licensee’s name or residential address –

- (i) at least 24 hours before that change occurs; or
- (ii) if the change of address occurs without 24 hours’ notice, as soon as practicable, and no later than 24 hours, after that change occurs;

9. There will be increased scope for firearms dealer employees to possess and handle firearms and firearm parts, as well as purchase and sell firearms in the absence of the holder of the firearms dealer licence.

This should have been set up that way a long time ago. There are already too many administrative hurdles in place for firearms dealers.

10. A resident from interstate who intends to reside in Tasmania will now have 7 days to apply for a Tasmanian licence across all categories. Previously Category A, B licence holders had 3 months.

It is a pity Tasmania does not recognise firearms safety training from other states.

A firearms licence holder from another state should be able to do straight transfer of licence without having to go through the whole training process again.

This does not happen with driver licence and other high risk work licences.

11. A firearms licence holder must notify Tasmania Police at least 7 days before a change in personal particulars. This was previously within 14 days after the change.

I assume this refers to S.28 *Application for licence* and S. 57 *Change in particulars of licence*.

S.28 (2) *An application for a licence is to – (d) contain any prescribed particulars; and*

A firearms licence application form asks for particulars like, but not limited to, health, mental health, physical ability, injuries, telephone number and next of kin

The current legislation for S. 57 states;

57. Change in particulars of licence

The holder of a licence must notify the Commissioner of any **change in any particulars specified in the licence** within 14 days after the change occurs.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 50 penalty units.

Taking all of that into account, does this mean a licensee will have to notify the Commissioner at least 7 days before they are injured, have dizzy spells, mental health issues or needs to change their next of kin?

This is just not practical and because, like the proposed amendments to S.46 of the Act, there is no “out”, it could mean prosecution for licensees for circumstances beyond their control.

12. Any person in possession of a firearm (whether or not they are the owner) must produce the firearm for inspection when requested to do so by a police officer. This previously only applied to the registered owners of firearms.

This makes sense and gives purpose to the NFR

13. Amendment to the structure of the section regarding the crime of possession of stolen firearm, this will increase the penalty for possession of stolen firearms and clarify how a matter can be prosecuted.

Need to ensure victims, i.e. spouse, partner, housemate do not wear the penalty for the real offender. There has been a number of cases where stolen firearms had been located by police in private premises, but the alleged offenders have not been charged as they stated they did not know the firearms had been hidden on their property. The reverse could happen where the offender coerces another person in the premises to take the wrap / blame for the offence.

14. Possession of stolen firearms will become an alternative conviction for a person charged with Unlawful trafficking in firearms. This means that where a court does not find a person guilty of unlawful trafficking in firearms, they may be convicted of possessing stolen firearms if the alternate charge is proven.

If it works and is going to be enforced and can be seen as a deterrent to stop people stealing and trafficking firearms then go ahead.

15. Unlawful trafficking in firearms will be able to be tried summarily if the defendant and the prosecutor consent. This will speed up the administration of justice and holding offenders accountable when a matter does not warrant being dealt with in the Supreme Court.

Hopefully it will mean offenders will get real penalties and may act as a deterrent to others from stealing firearms.

16. A new summary offence of Stealing a firearm or firearm part will be created, to mirror the crime of stealing a firearm or firearm part in the Criminal Code. This will provide a summary option so that offenders can be held to account when a matter does not warrant being dealt with in the Supreme Court.

Hopefully it will mean offenders will get real penalties and may act as a deterrent to others stealing firearms

17. A firearm prohibition order will now apply not only to firearms, but will also apply to firearm parts, ammunition and suppressors.

Thought that was already the case. Thought everything got taken when firearms confiscated.

18. The introduction of magazine ammunition capacity limits for some category A and B firearms to further enhance public safety.

Need to relax this in the case of air rifles as some come with magazine capacities greater than ten and there are no alternative magazines manufactured. As air rifles are considered a low power firearm, most criminals or terrorists are unlikely to use one to inflict harm on the scale seen in recent years. As such, imposing magazine restrictions on air rifles will have little or no effect on intentional misuse.

19. The updating of identification requirements for licence applications as the Act currently references repealed Commonwealth legislation.

Makes sense for conformity

20. Creation of a mandatory minimum sentence of three months' imprisonment for being caught in possession of a stolen firearm or for stealing a firearm.

Is this a big enough deterrent to encourage people to stop stealing firearms.

Considering the extra requirements placed on firearms owner's storage requirements several years ago, this is not even a catch-up and is still below the expectations of many owners.

It is extremely frustrating that comments from the likes of Roland Browne, see below, can even see the light of day is bewildering. The gun control lobby and anti-gun groups are very quick to blame legitimate firearm owners for illegal firearms but offer no form of deterrent to the theft of firearms.

From "Australian Shooter" August 2026, p.34

That anti-gun groups continue to assert otherwise indicates either ignorance, reluctance to admit they're wrong or willingness to lie to further their agenda. Here's Gun Control Australia's Roland Browne on the illicit market. "Every illegal gun starts its life as somebody's legally-held gun and most of them are being stolen from homes," he said. "Claims of illegal imports of firearms into Australia have dropped off significantly and probably disappeared."

It also does not help when the federal government effectively pins the blame for the 2025 Bondi terror attack on legitimate firearm owners.

21. The updating of sections 91 and 93 to allow dealer record keeping to be made and held electronically, in readiness for the implementation of the NFR.

Makes sense, gives purpose to NFR and will hopefully lessen the load on firearms dealers and Firearms Services.

Conclusion

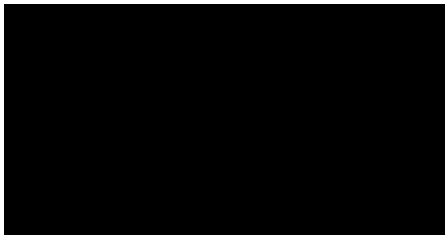
Apart from the updates to keep the Act contemporary, and the vain attempts to tidy up some administrative processes, it appears this whole exercise of amending the Firearms Act 1996 is nothing more than an appeasement to the federal government's poor management and knee-jerk reaction to Bondi terror attack.

- The entire Act requires serious review to make it a more workable document.
- There needs to be serious deterrents put in place to discourage firearm thefts.
- Proposed treatment of non-citizen firearm licence holders is questionable.
- Consideration needs to be given to how firearms are managed at the sporting club level.
- Any proposal to impose caps on firearm ownership should not be considered during this hasty band-aid approach. Proper consultation is warranted.

Thank you for the opportunity to give input to the tabled proposed amendments.

Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026

Prepared in response to the Tasmanian Government consultation



LOCATION

Hobart

BACKGROUND OR INTEREST

**Licenced firearm owner. Club member.
Club committee member. Competitive
shooter.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Submission summary

Overall, this submission supports 12 amendments, opposes 8, is unsure about 1, and records no comment on 0.

12 SUPPORT	8 OPPOSE	1 UNSURE	0 NO COMMENT
1 OPPOSE	2 SUPPORT	3 SUPPORT	
4 SUPPORT	5 SUPPORT	6 OPPOSE	
7 OPPOSE	8 SUPPORT	9 SUPPORT	
10 OPPOSE	11 OPPOSE	12 OPPOSE	
13 SUPPORT	14 SUPPORT	15 SUPPORT	
16 SUPPORT	17 UNSURE	18 OPPOSE	
19 SUPPORT	20 SUPPORT	21 OPPOSE	

AMENDMENT 1**OPPOSE****Reclassification of straight-pull and button/lever-release centre-fire rifles and shotguns, including lever-action shotguns****Concerns that have been raised**

- Classification should be based on evidence rather than appearance, public reaction to specific events, or theoretical differences in cycling speed.
- Category C access is significantly more restricted and the proposal could prevent ordinary licence holders from continuing to own firearms that may have substantial financial or sentimental value.
- The proposal may impose substantial cost on lawful owners without a demonstrated public-safety benefit proportionate to that impact.

Suggested alternatives

- More targeted enforcement against unlawful possession.
- A narrower amendment focused on the identified risk.

AMENDMENT 2**SUPPORT****Australian citizenship as the default firearms-licensing requirement****Reasons given in support**

- Citizenship may provide a clearer long-term connection to Australia.

AMENDMENT 3**SUPPORT****Restriction on on-lending firearms****Reasons given in support**

- It keeps the registered owner closer to the person actually possessing the firearm.
- It may reduce confusion about where a firearm is located.
- It may reduce the chance of loss, misplacement or unauthorised possession.

AMENDMENT 4**SUPPORT****Verification of borrower licence and storage****Reasons given in support**

- It promotes responsible lending and lawful storage.
- It may prevent accidental lending to a suspended, expired or unsuitable licence holder.

AMENDMENT 5**SUPPORT****Nationally consistent firearm terminology****Reasons given in support**

- Consistent terminology may improve interstate data sharing and administration.
- Modern definitions can reduce confusion.

AMENDMENT 6**Clarification of firearm and firearm-part definitions****OPPOSE****Concerns that have been raised**

- Overly broad definitions could capture ordinary, non-pressure-bearing or unregulated components.
- Definitions should distinguish critical operating parts from generic hardware and accessories.

AMENDMENT 7**Notification of storage away from the owner's residence****OPPOSE****Concerns that have been raised**

- A 24-hour threshold may be impractical for hunting trips, competitions, work, repairs or emergencies.
- The rule should focus on the primary storage location rather than brief lawful travel.
- Repeated notifications may create administrative burden without improving physical security.

AMENDMENT 8**Notification before changing residential address****SUPPORT****Reasons given in support**

- Advance notice may help keep licence and storage-location records accurate.
- It may support timely storage-compliance checks.
- The 'as soon as practicable' exception recognises unexpected moves.

AMENDMENT 9**Expanded authority for firearms dealer employees****SUPPORT****Reasons given in support**

- It may improve practical business operation and staffing flexibility.
- Licensed and vetted employees could handle routine transactions.
- Clear authority may reduce uncertainty under the current law.

AMENDMENT 10**Seven-day Tasmanian licence application for new interstate residents****OPPOSE****Concerns that have been raised**

- Seven days is very short during a household move and may be difficult where documents or appointments are unavailable.
- A 28- or 30-day period may achieve compliance without unnecessary technical offences.

AMENDMENT 11**Advance notice of changes in personal particulars****OPPOSE****Concerns that have been raised**

- Many personal changes are not known seven days in advance.
- The Bill should specify which particulars can reasonably be pre-notified.
- An 'as soon as practicable' option should apply to unplanned changes.

AMENDMENT 12**Production of firearms for police inspection****OPPOSE****Concerns that have been raised**

- Requests should require a clear lawful basis and reasonable time for compliance.
- The law should account for firearms stored elsewhere or temporarily inaccessible.
- Safeguards are needed against arbitrary or unnecessarily intrusive demands.

AMENDMENT 13**Possession of stolen firearms offence and penalty****SUPPORT****Reasons given in support**

- Stolen firearms present a serious public-safety risk and stronger penalties may be justified.
- Clear offence elements can improve consistent prosecution.

AMENDMENT 14**Alternative conviction for possession of stolen firearms****SUPPORT****Reasons given in support**

- It may avoid a complete acquittal where serious proven conduct falls short of trafficking.
- Alternative verdicts can improve court efficiency.

AMENDMENT 15**Summary trial option for unlawful firearms trafficking****SUPPORT****Reasons given in support**

- Suitable cases may be resolved more quickly and efficiently.
- It may reduce higher-court delay and cost.

AMENDMENT 16**New summary offence of stealing a firearm or firearm part****SUPPORT****Reasons given in support**

- A specific summary offence may permit timely prosecution of suitable cases.
- It recognises the particular danger associated with stolen firearms.

AMENDMENT 17**Expansion of firearm prohibition orders****UNSURE****Reasons for remaining unsure**

- I need more evidence or detail before deciding.
- The practical effect on lawful owners is not yet clear.

AMENDMENT 18**Magazine ammunition-capacity limits for Category A and B firearms****OPPOSE****Concerns that have been raised**

- The government should publish evidence linking affected magazine capacities to Tasmanian crime risk.
- Limits may have little effect on criminals using stolen or prohibited firearms.
- The proposal may impose costs on sporting shooters, hunters and primary producers.
- Secure storage and theft prevention may better address diversion risk.

AMENDMENT 19**Updated identification requirements for licence applications****SUPPORT****Reasons given in support**

- Modern identity standards may reduce fraud.
- Applicants benefit from a clear list of acceptable documents.

AMENDMENT 20**Three-month mandatory minimum imprisonment for stolen-firearm offences****SUPPORT****Reasons given in support**

- Stealing or knowingly possessing a stolen firearm is serious and creates community risk.
- A minimum sentence may express strong denunciation and provide consistency.

AMENDMENT 21**Electronic firearms dealer record keeping****OPPOSE****Concerns that have been raised**

- Cybersecurity, outages, backups and access controls must be addressed.
- Clear rules are needed for data ownership, corrections and retention.

Further suggestions

- Require all firearm safes to be securely affixed to the floor and/or wall.
- Require a monitored alarm or camera system for all firearm safes.
- Require a monitored alarm or camera system where five or more firearms are stored.
- Require firearm-safe keys to be kept in a separate room, secured in a separate locked location, or carried on the licence holder's person.
- Modernise firearm storage laws, including clearer requirements for anchoring safes and preventing whole-safe theft.
- Prioritise theft prevention, secure storage and enforcement against unlawful possession before imposing broad reclassifications on lawful owners.
- Publish the evidence relied upon for each firearm reclassification and explain the expected public-safety benefit.
- Separate broadly supported administrative and criminal-law reforms from contentious firearm reclassification proposals.
- Provide clear grandfathering, compensation and transition arrangements for owners of firearms or magazines that are currently lawful.
- Review each affected firearm type individually rather than grouping manually operated actions together without demonstrated evidence of equivalent risk.
- Increase penalties for stealing firearms or assisting firearm theft.
- Increase resources for investigating illegal firearm trafficking and unlawful possession.
- Introduce recognised security ratings for safes based on the number and type of firearms stored.
- Focus future reforms on reducing theft, unlawful possession and criminal misuse while minimising unnecessary impacts on people already complying with the law.

Closing comments

- I support amendments that have a demonstrated and proportionate public-safety benefit, but I do not support changes based primarily on optics, political pressure or unsupported assumptions.
- This legislation should not proceed unchanged until storage-law weaknesses, transition arrangements and the evidence supporting reclassification have been properly addressed.
- Lawful firearm ownership and criminal misuse should be treated as separate policy questions, with restrictions directed at the actual source of harm.

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 4 August 2026 10:58 AM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Firearms Reforms

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

Subject: Submission on the Firearms Amendment Proposals

To whom it may concern,

I oppose any changes to Tasmania's firearms laws that place additional burdens on law-abiding firearms licence holders rather than targeting criminals.

I support stronger penalties for firearm theft, stronger penalties for possessing stolen firearms, and laws that focus on organised crime and terrorism.

However, I do not support the proposed reclassification of straight-pull and lever/button-release firearms, new magazine restrictions for Category A and B firearms, unnecessary storage notification requirements, increased administrative requirements for licensed firearm lending, or measures that rely on broad discretionary exemptions instead of clear legislation.

Many of these proposals would create additional costs and red tape for responsible firearm owners, farmers, hunters, and recreational shooters without clear evidence that they would improve public safety. Law-abiding licence holders already comply with strict licensing, storage, and background check requirements, while criminals do not.

Tasmania's firearms laws should focus on preventing criminal misuse of firearms rather than imposing further restrictions on responsible people who are already following the law.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 7 August 2026 4:01 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: CONSULTATION ON THE FIREARMS AMENDMENT (MISCELLANEOUS) BILL 2026

[REDACTED]
To whom it may concern.

I ask that the proposed amendments remain evidence-based and proportionate. Licensed firearm owners have already met strict licensing requirements, are required to store firearms securely, and are subject to ongoing oversight by Tasmania Police.

The proposed requirement for lenders to verify another licence holder's storage arrangements appears unnecessary, as licensed owners are already legally required to comply with storage laws and Tasmania Police have the authority to inspect and enforce those requirements. The vast majority—if not all—firearm owners have already undergone an initial inspection of their storage arrangements as part of the licensing process.

I also do not support imposing arbitrary limits on the number of firearms a licensed person may own. Such limits are likely to inconvenience responsible firearm owners without reducing criminal access to firearms or improving community safety. In addition, many firearm collections include inherited, handed-down, or otherwise sentimental firearms that have been passed through families over time, and these would be unfairly impacted by such restrictions. Any restriction should be supported by clear evidence that it will achieve its intended public safety outcome.

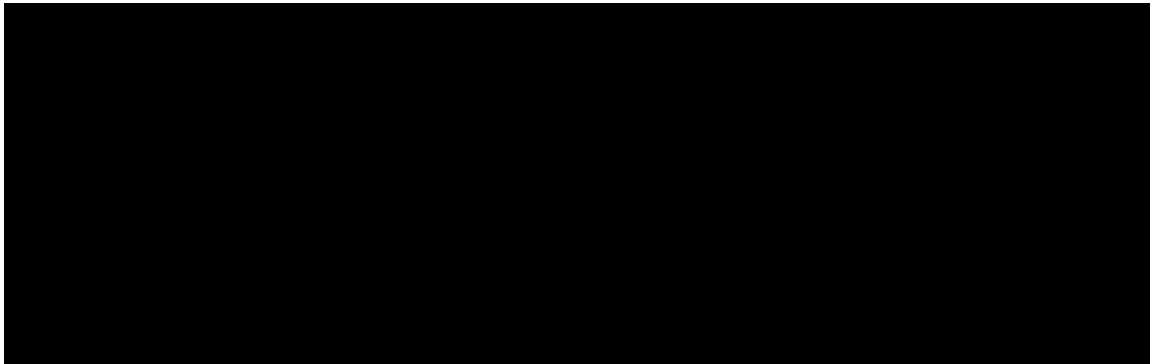
Finally, I encourage the Government to ensure that any reforms are directed at preventing criminal misuse and unlawful possession of firearms. Law-abiding licensed firearm owners should not be subject to additional restrictions unless there is clear evidence that those measures will improve public safety. Penalties for firearm-related offences, including the theft of firearms, should be significantly increased, and consideration should be given to mandatory custodial sentences for serious offences to reflect the gravity of the risk posed to community safety.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026

Prepared in response to the Tasmanian Government consultation



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Submission summary

Overall, this submission supports 12 amendments, opposes 5, is unsure about 4, and records no comment on 0.

12 SUPPORT		5 OPPOSE		4 UNSURE		0 NO COMMENT	
1	SUPPORT	2	SUPPORT	3	SUPPORT		
4	SUPPORT	5	UNSURE	6	UNSURE		
7	OPPOSE	8	OPPOSE	9	SUPPORT		
10	OPPOSE	11	OPPOSE	12	OPPOSE		
13	SUPPORT	14	SUPPORT	15	UNSURE		
16	UNSURE	17	SUPPORT	18	SUPPORT		
19	SUPPORT	20	SUPPORT	21	SUPPORT		

AMENDMENT 1

SUPPORT

Reclassification of straight-pull and button/lever-release centre-fire rifles and shotguns, including lever-action shotguns

Reasons given in support

- The proposal may align regulation more closely with the Government's assessment of the operational characteristics of the affected firearms.

Additional comments

When modern button release gained popularity i believe they should have been in Cat C. They semi automatically eject and only require button release to rechamber. A highly experienced rifleman may be able to cycle a bolt action as quickly, but the average operator would not be able to maintain the rate of fire of a button release.

AMENDMENT 2

SUPPORT

Australian citizenship as the default firearms-licensing requirement

Reasons given in support

- Citizenship may provide a clearer long-term connection to Australia.
- Defined exemptions may preserve access for specific employment or primary-production needs.

Additional comments

An Australian firearms licence should be the domain of Australian citizens

AMENDMENT 3

SUPPORT

Restriction on on-lending firearms

Reasons given in support

- It keeps the registered owner closer to the person actually possessing the firearm.
- It may reduce confusion about where a firearm is located.
- It may reduce the chance of loss, misplacement or unauthorised possession.

Additional comments

I have never lent a firearm but if i did i would not expect my registered property to be anywhere else. That's just bad manners.

AMENDMENT 4

SUPPORT

Verification of borrower licence and storage

Reasons given in support

- It promotes responsible lending and lawful storage.
- It may prevent accidental lending to a suspended, expired or unsuitable licence holder.
- Clear definitions may improve consistency and support the National Firearms Register.

Additional comments

I would not risk my licence or my property not to be cared for as i do.

AMENDMENT 5

Nationally consistent firearm terminology

UNSURE

Reasons for remaining unsure

- I need more evidence or detail before deciding.
- The practical effect on lawful owners is not yet clear.

Additional comments

Labels/terminology are arbitrary, consistency is required however changing adequate terms for other adequate terms is no real benefit?

AMENDMENT 6

Clarification of firearm and firearm-part definitions

UNSURE

Reasons for remaining unsure

- I need more evidence or detail before deciding.
- The practical effect on lawful owners is not yet clear.
- The transition, exemption or enforcement arrangements require clarification.

AMENDMENT 7

Notification of storage away from the owner's residence

OPPOSE

Concerns that have been raised

- A 24-hour threshold may be impractical for hunting trips, competitions, work, repairs or emergencies.
- The rule should focus on the primary storage location rather than brief lawful travel.
- An easy online notification process and emergency exceptions are essential.
- Repeated notifications may create administrative burden without improving physical security.

Suggested alternatives

- More targeted enforcement against unlawful possession.

AMENDMENT 8

Notification before changing residential address

OPPOSE

Concerns that have been raised

- The obligation should use a reasonable period and avoid penalising harmless delay.

Suggested alternatives

- More targeted enforcement against unlawful possession.

Additional comments

I assume the intention is to know where licenced and registered firearms are in a tiny timeframe, however inspection checks frequency for police span years? The delta of current reporting timeframes and proposed changes does not make any difference. If there is a firearms event unfolding, you only need to know where the firearms are that directly relate to that event. This will require IDing persons involved and attending the location as listed. The firearms are there, or they are not, either way requires physical verification making urgency irrelevant compared with unfolding event. Follow up administration.

AMENDMENT 9

Expanded authority for firearms dealer employees

SUPPORT

Reasons given in support

- It may improve practical business operation and staffing flexibility.
- Licensed and vetted employees could handle routine transactions.
- Clear authority may reduce uncertainty under the current law.

AMENDMENT 10

Seven-day Tasmanian licence application for new interstate residents

OPPOSE

Concerns that have been raised

- Seven days is very short during a household move and may be difficult where documents or appointments are unavailable.
- Interstate licences should remain recognised while a timely Tasmanian application is processed.

Suggested alternatives

- More targeted enforcement against unlawful possession.

Additional comments

Three months is adequate

AMENDMENT 11

Advance notice of changes in personal particulars

OPPOSE

Concerns that have been raised

- Many personal changes are not known seven days in advance.
- The Bill should specify which particulars can reasonably be pre-notified.
- An 'as soon as practicable' option should apply to unplanned changes.
- Technical noncompliance should not attract disproportionate penalties.

Suggested alternatives

- More targeted enforcement against unlawful possession.

Additional comments

14 days is adequate. Changes for the sake of them.

AMENDMENT 12

Production of firearms for police inspection

OPPOSE

Concerns that have been raised

- Requests should require a clear lawful basis and reasonable time for compliance.
- The law should account for firearms stored elsewhere or temporarily inaccessible.
- Safeguards are needed against arbitrary or unnecessarily intrusive demands.
- Exceptions need to be defined, ie if consumed alcohol a firearm cannot be accessed by possessor to produce to a police officer.

Suggested alternatives

- More targeted enforcement against unlawful possession.

AMENDMENT 13

Possession of stolen firearms offence and penalty

SUPPORT

Reasons given in support

- Stolen firearms present a serious public-safety risk and stronger penalties may be justified.
- Clear offence elements can improve consistent prosecution.
- The change targets unlawful possession rather than licensed ownership.

Additional comments

Remove the exceptions to mandatory prison time. Part 3 Sentencing Act 16C (1) (2) (3). Mandatory doesn't need soft discretion.

AMENDMENT 14

Alternative conviction for possession of stolen firearms

SUPPORT

Reasons given in support

- It may avoid a complete acquittal where serious proven conduct falls short of trafficking.
- Alternative verdicts can improve court efficiency.
- The lesser offence would still need to be proven.

AMENDMENT 15

Summary trial option for unlawful firearms trafficking

UNSURE

Reasons for remaining unsure

- I need more evidence or detail before deciding.
- The practical effect on lawful owners is not yet clear.
- The transition, exemption or enforcement arrangements require clarification.

AMENDMENT 16

New summary offence of stealing a firearm or firearm part

UNSURE

Reasons for remaining unsure

- I need more evidence or detail before deciding.
- The practical effect on lawful owners is not yet clear.
- The transition, exemption or enforcement arrangements require clarification.

AMENDMENT 17

Expansion of firearm prohibition orders

SUPPORT

Reasons given in support

- A prohibition order may be ineffective if the person can lawfully possess ammunition or critical parts.
- The expansion may close practical gaps in risk management.
- It aligns the restriction with the purpose of preventing firearm access.

Additional comments

I do not agree with sound moderators being prohibited at all. They are a safeguard to personal hearing, and stock management without unnecessary stress. This reform needs to consult actual firearms users and expand conversation to real world applications. Not some "experts" prescribed list. OHS legislation requires the use of the hierarchy of control, not PPE being the first and only option. Catch up. Not allowed to own a loud car or motorcycle but i must own a loud firearm?

AMENDMENT 18**Magazine ammunition-capacity limits for Category A and B firearms****SUPPORT****Reasons given in support**

- The measure may reduce consequences if a firearm is stolen or misused.

AMENDMENT 19**Updated identification requirements for licence applications****SUPPORT****Reasons given in support**

- Removing repealed references is necessary for clear administration.
- Modern identity standards may reduce fraud.
- Applicants benefit from a clear list of acceptable documents.

AMENDMENT 20**Three-month mandatory minimum imprisonment for stolen-firearm offences****SUPPORT****Reasons given in support**

- Stealing or knowingly possessing a stolen firearm is serious and creates community risk.
- A minimum sentence may express strong denunciation and provide consistency.
- The measure is directed at criminal firearm diversion.

Additional comments

As already commented, remove the exceptions from the sentencing act. Part 3 16C (1) (2) (3)

AMENDMENT 21**Electronic firearms dealer record keeping****SUPPORT****Reasons given in support**

- Electronic records may improve accuracy, searchability and reporting.
- It can reduce duplication and administrative burden.
- Digital records support timely National Firearms Register updates.

Additional comments

If this increases burden on firearms dealers there should be no penalty involved with infractions. Support the people supporting the system. Licenced firearms owners/dealers etc were never the problem.

Further suggestions

- Prioritise theft prevention, secure storage and enforcement against unlawful possession before imposing broad reclassifications on lawful owners.
- Publish the evidence relied upon for each firearm reclassification and explain the expected public-safety benefit.
- Separate broadly supported administrative and criminal-law reforms from contentious firearm reclassification proposals.
- Provide clear grandfathering, compensation and transition arrangements for owners of firearms or magazines that are currently lawful.
- Increase penalties for stealing firearms or assisting firearm theft.
- Increase resources for investigating illegal firearm trafficking and unlawful possession.
- Provide grants or rebates to help lawful owners upgrade firearm storage.
- Focus future reforms on reducing theft, unlawful possession and criminal misuse while minimising unnecessary impacts on people already complying with the law.
- Open discussion regarding sound moderators as effective tools in livestock management.

Closing comments

- I support amendments that have a demonstrated and proportionate public-safety benefit, but I do not support changes based primarily on optics, political pressure or unsupported assumptions.
- Lawful firearm ownership and criminal misuse should be treated as separate policy questions, with restrictions directed at the actual source of harm.
- The final legislation should strike a fair balance between community safety and the rights and responsibilities of people already complying with the law.

**COMMENT ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO TASMANIAN FIREARM LAWS AS OUTLINED
IN THE CONSULTATION PAPER**

Tasmanian Firearm Licence Holder

SECTION		OPPOSE/SUPPORT		REASON
NEW: 82A		OPPOSE		This only affects licenced firearms owners. It will not capture the criminal use of firearms
107 (Possession of firearm parts)		SUPPORT		This is supported IF the Police only target those unlicensed (criminal) offenders and not create an easy target of firearm licence holders.
107A Possession of stolen firearms		SUPPORT		This is supported IF the Police only target those unlicensed (criminal) offenders and not create an easy target of firearm licence holders.
110A (unlawful trafficking)		SUPPORT		This is supported IF the Police only target those unlicensed (criminal) offenders and not create an easy target of firearm licence holders. It is vitally important for the mandatory sentencing to be imposed.
NEW: 110c Stealing of firearm or firearm parts		SUPPORT		Again this requires strict mandatory sentencing to be applied by the judiciary.
NEW: 121a Lending and borrowing of firearms		OPPOSE		This new sections needs to be drafted so that its intent is clear and concise. As it sits in the consultation paper there is some anomalies
Changes to definitions and terminology		SUPPORT		This makes sense IF legislators seek expert advice on terminology and not rely on police who have a limited knowledge of firearms beyond their service firearm

Reclassification of firearms		OPPOSE		Why is this necessary. The type of firearms described have been legal for decades. Reclassification to Cat C would not have prevented Bondi. The use of this type of firearm in that circumstance was a failure of the authorities to recognise the danger the owner posed.
Cat C restricted to allow one firearm		OPPOSE		The explanation is very confusing and does not provide clear and concise advice as to the future of Cat C licence holders. It is frustrating when owners of this type of firearm have had them registered for years under a less restrictive category. Changing to Cat C and restricting owners would not prevent another Bondi when the authorities do not follow the process for licence holders.
Domestic Violence Orders		SUPPORT		Any changes that support the victims (male or female) of DV should be supported, but not at the expense of a licenced firearm owner if the violence is not firearm related.
Changes in Citizenship and residency		OPPOSE		The changes to citizenship and residency have dropped out of the very poor process that was undertaken by the AFP and NSW Police. It should not be used against people who have lived in this country regardless of their nationality for decades and are licenced firearm owners who have been defined as fit and proper persons under the current firearm laws. This is nothing more than a way to remove firearms from the licenced firearm owners in the community. It will have absolutely no effect for the criminal use of firearms. It will only destroy the shooting sports and hunting.
Firearm dealers checking validity of a firearms licence		SUPPORT IF...		There should be an emphasis put on the electronic submitting of Permits to Acquire and Licence Applications. In Tasmania, the requirement to lodge any Firearms Registry paperwork with Services Tasmania does not provide owners the opportunity to maintain the security of their data.

NFR Portal		SUPPORT IF....		There needs to be strict security arrangements for access to the NFR. There is a danger of access by criminal elements that could make the data vulnerable to access for illegal purposes.
Notify change of address for more than 24 hours		OPPOSE		It is unclear what the intention is with this amendment as it relates to competition shooters who travel both intrastate and interstate for local, State and National Championships.
Change of name or residence		OPPOSE		This should not be changed. Again the NFR knowing 'in real time' where firearms are and who has access to them would not have prevented Bondi. The NSW Police knew that the perpetrator had firearms by virtue of the fact that he was a licenced firearm owner and had received permits to acquire for the firearms used in the Bondi tragedy. Their incompetence in applying the law should not be imposed on Tasmanian firearm licence holders
Changes to applying for Tasmanian Firearms Licence when moving from interstate		OPPOSE		Why? This only restricts licenced firearm owners. Those with criminal intent will not let anyone know where they are
Changes for firearm dealers		SUPPORT		All forms, including permits to acquire and licence applications should be electronic to protect licenced owners data. This will have no effect if Tasmania Police continue to utilise a paper-based licence application and PTA process
New penalties or increased penalties		SUPPORT IF....		Changes to the <i>Sentencing Act 1997</i> needs to happen concurrently with this legislation. It must remove the 'get out of goal free' card that takes into account the age of the offender, mental impairment or if the Court thinks the sentence is unjust'.

GENERAL COMMENT				There have been numerous Inquiries or Royal Commissions into disasters, homophobia, anti-semitism and other forms of racism, prejudices and discrimination. By implementing this change to firearm ownership and the proposed buy-back scheme, the Federal Government have discriminated against a sector of the community who have done nothing wrong. The Tasmanian Labor Party has stated that 'Tasmanians don't want multiple firearms in the community'. There is now an opportunity for an Inquiry into Hoplophobia. Homophobia is defined and clinically understood as a form of social bias and discrimination rather than a medically diagnosed phobic anxiety disorder. It is no different to Hoplophobia in that sense so it is past time for an Inquiry either at State or Federal level to be undertaken into hoplophobia.....the irrational fear of firearms or weapons that has resulted in licenced firearm owners being discriminated against by the Federal and State Governments.



Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 7 August 2026 9:29 AM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Firearms Amendment 2026

[REDACTED]

To whom it may concern.

Having read the proposed 2026 firearms amendment document I believe it should be rejected in its entirety. The only exclusion being the increase in penalty for firearm theft and illegal trafficking and possession of illegal firearms.

Full enforcement and compliance with current laws is adequate to maintain community safety.

A complete redraft of amendments with sole focus on intervention and increased penalties around criminal behaviour relating to firearms would be more practical and does not penalise law abiding citizens.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer this opinion

[REDACTED]

3 August 2026

Submissions at Strategy and Support
Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management
GPO Box 308
Hobart TAS 7001

Submission on the Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026

Dear Sir/Madam,

I make this submission in response to the proposed Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026.

I support the establishment of the National Firearms Register, improved interstate information sharing, accurate firearm records, stronger action against firearm theft and trafficking, and meaningful penalties for people who deliberately place firearms into the illicit market.

However, I oppose or seek substantial amendment to several other proposals, particularly:

- the reclassification of manually operated straight-pull and button or lever-release centre-fire firearms to Category C;
- the proposed restriction of existing owners to a single firearm within the newly reclassified group;
- the reduction in detachable-magazine capacity for bolt-action centre-fire rifles from 15 rounds to 10 rounds;
- the failure to resolve existing uncertainty concerning AR-pattern, handgun and other cross-platform magazines under section 118;
- inadequate grandfathering, compensation and transition arrangements;
- proposed numerical ownership caps being promoted outside the present consultation Bill;
- impractical temporary-storage notification requirements;
- poorly defined lending and borrower-storage verification obligations;
- the citizenship requirement as it may apply to established permanent residents;
- the continued general prohibition on suppressors despite legitimate hearing-protection, hunting, occupational, environmental and animal-welfare uses;
- insufficient safeguards for highly sensitive police firearm records; and
- the imbalance between severe consequences for technical breaches by licensed owners and the response to serious violence, firearm theft and trafficking.

The National Firearms Register should not be used as a vehicle for unrelated restrictions that have not been supported by publicly available Tasmanian evidence. The consultation should clearly distinguish between amendments genuinely required to implement the Register and additional restrictions proposed separately by the Tasmanian Government.

1. Support for the National Firearms Register

I support a nationally connected system that gives police accurate and near real-time information about firearm licences, registrations, transfers and nominated storage locations.

Licensed firearm owners already accept substantial obligations concerning licensing, registration, permits to acquire, lawful use, safe storage, reporting losses or thefts and remaining fit and proper persons. A properly designed National Firearms Register should make compliance easier, reduce duplication and improve the ability of police to trace firearms.

It should not create unnecessary criminal liability for people who have acted honestly and safely but made an administrative mistake.

Implementation should therefore include:

1. a reliable online system that is operational and independently tested before new obligations commence;
2. immediate confirmation and a reference number whenever a notification or verification is submitted;
3. telephone, email, police-station and paper alternatives for people without reliable internet access;
4. a reasonable-excuse defence for outages, communication failures, emergencies and circumstances outside the licence holder's control;
5. warnings and a reasonable opportunity to correct first-time administrative errors that create no identifiable safety risk; and
6. clear privacy, access-control, retention and data-security safeguards.

2. Cybersecurity of police firearm records

A centralised firearm register will contain unusually sensitive information, including the identities of licence holders, firearm details and storage locations. If police or National Firearms Register systems are compromised through hacking, ransomware, insider misuse, stolen credentials or an AI-assisted cyberattack, the information could become a targeted list for criminals.

The consequences would extend beyond ordinary identity theft. Compromised records could identify where firearms are stored and place licence holders, their families, neighbours and attending police officers at risk.

The system must be future-proofed against rapidly developing threats, including automated vulnerability discovery, AI-generated phishing, credential attacks, deepfake impersonation, cloned voices, fraudulent police communications and imitation websites or portals.

Before commencement, the Government should publish the principal safeguards governing:

- encryption and secure transmission of data;
- multi-factor authentication;
- strict role-based access controls;
- logging and monitoring of every access to firearm and storage-location information;

- independent penetration testing and security audits;
- prompt investigation of suspicious access;
- data minimisation and retention limits;
- mandatory notification to affected licence holders following an actual or suspected compromise; and
- regular review and upgrading of security controls as cyber and AI-assisted threats evolve.

Any public licence-verification service must disclose only the minimum information required to confirm that a licence is current and appropriate. It must not expose firearm holdings, residential addresses or storage-location information.

No enforcement, seizure or licensing action should be based solely on an automated flag or an AI-assisted assessment. Any adverse automated result should be reviewed by an authorised human decision-maker, with reasons and review rights available to the affected person.

3. Reclassification is not required by the National Firearms Agreement

The Bill would move straight-pull and button or lever-release centre-fire rifles and shotguns into Category C.^[1]

The 2017 National Firearms Agreement places single-shot, double-barrel and repeating centre-fire rifles within Category B, while Category C is principally directed to semi-automatic rimfire rifles and semi-automatic or pump-action shotguns.^[2] It does not expressly classify straight-pull, toggle-action, push-button or lever-release centre-fire firearms as Category C.

Tasmania may adopt laws that are more restrictive than the national minimum. However, additional Tasmanian restrictions should not be presented as necessary national harmonisation unless the relevant national agreement actually requires them.

If Tasmania wishes to depart from the existing classification approach, it should publish:

- the number and types of affected firearms registered in Tasmania;
- the number lost or stolen;
- the number used in criminal offending;
- any evidence of unlawful modification;
- a model-by-model technical comparison with conventional bolt-action and lever-action firearms;
- less restrictive alternatives considered; and
- the measurable public-safety benefit expected from reclassification.

The consultation material does not provide an adequate evidentiary basis of that kind.

4. The affected firearms remain manually operated

A straight-pull firearm must be manually cycled by the user between shots. A button or lever-release firearm may use energy from the fired cartridge to eject the case or move part of the mechanism, but the user must deliberately operate a separate control before another cartridge is chambered.

These firearms are not self-loading in the ordinary sense. One trigger pull does not automatically prepare the firearm to discharge the next round. A distinct manual action remains necessary.

Straight-pull action is also not a recent invention developed to avoid the restrictions introduced after 1996. Winchester records that it manufactured the Lee straight-pull rifle for the United States Navy in 1895.^[3] Ross straight-pull rifles were produced before and during the First World War.^[4] The Australian Army currently describes the Blaser Tactical 2 as a “straight-pull, bolt-operated action rifle”.^[5]

These examples demonstrate two important points:

1. straight-pull mechanisms have existed for well over a century; and
2. a straight-pull action has historically and technically been treated as a form of manually operated bolt action.

The appropriate comparison is therefore not the firearm’s age, appearance or resemblance to another platform. The relevant question is whether it reloads itself or requires the operator to perform a separate manual action between every shot.

The Bill also creates inconsistencies. A traditional lever-action or pump-action centre-fire rifle may remain Category B, while a manually operated straight-pull or toggle-action centre-fire rifle would become Category C. Similar action types may remain in Category A when chambered for rimfire ammunition because the proposed definitions are limited to centre-fire firearms.

Before proceeding, the Government should publish a technical schedule explaining:

- every make and model intended to be affected;
- whether toggle-action firearms are included;
- the exact mechanical characteristics relied upon;
- the practical rate and method of operation compared with conventional bolt-action and lever-action firearms; and
- why Category C is necessary for each model.

Manually operated straight-pull rifles should remain Category B.

5. Broad definitions may capture future firearms unexpectedly

The proposed definitions rely on broad mechanical descriptions rather than an exhaustive list of affected makes and models.^[1] That creates a risk that firearms not currently contemplated will later be captured through a changed interpretation or a technical design feature.

The treatment of toggle-action firearms is particularly unclear. Depending on their construction, they may involve a substantially linear manual movement without the handle rotation associated with a conventional turn-bolt rifle.

Licence holders should not have to rely on informal advice, unpublished policy or future enforcement discretion to determine whether a registered firearm has changed category.

The legislation should include:

1. clear and exhaustive definitions;
2. a published schedule of affected makes and models;
3. independent technical review before additional models are included;
4. public consultation before any further classification change; and

5. a right to seek review of an administrative classification decision.

6. Category C is being expanded beyond its existing structure

Category C's existing numerical framework was structured around two restricted firearm groups:

- self-loading rimfire rifles; and
- self-loading or pump-action shotguns.

The Bill would add a third and fundamentally different group: manually operated straight-pull and button or lever-release centre-fire firearms.^[1]

It also appears to allow a Category C licence holder to possess one firearm within that newly reclassified group. The one-firearm limit appears to have been carried across from the existing Category C structure without evidence that one affected centre-fire firearm is an appropriate limit.

The fact that two firearms use a similar action does not make one redundant. A hunter, sporting shooter or primary producer may legitimately require different calibres, barrel configurations or firearm types for different lawful tasks.

There is no demonstrated safety reason why a fit and proper person with compliant storage should be permitted to retain one affected firearm but forced to surrender another that was lawfully acquired under a permit issued by Tasmania Police.

At minimum:

- every affected firearm registered before commencement should be grandfathered to its existing owner;
- existing owners should not be limited to one affected firearm;
- grandfathered possession should not depend on satisfying the ordinary Category C occupational criteria;
- transfer should remain possible to an appropriately licensed person, dealer, collector or deceased estate;
- collector provisions should be preserved; and
- no additional licensing fee should be imposed merely because the Government changed the classification.

7. Magazine-capacity reduction lacks a demonstrated basis

The Bill would reduce the maximum detachable-magazine capacity for a bolt-action centre-fire rifle from 15 rounds to 10 rounds.^[1]

No evidence has been published showing that lawfully held 11-to-15-round magazines for manually operated centre-fire rifles have created a public-safety problem in Tasmania. Reducing the limit by five rounds will not alter the firearm's basic method of operation.

It will instead:

- make previously lawful property prohibited;
- impose replacement and surrender costs on owners;

- create uncertainty for dealers, clubs and competitors;
- interfere with legitimate sporting and hunting use; and
- expose owners to substantial penalties if they unknowingly retain a formerly lawful magazine.

Before reducing the limit, the Government should publish:

1. the estimated number of affected magazines in Tasmania;
2. any Tasmanian incidents involving lawfully held 11-to-15-round bolt-action magazines;
3. the expected and measurable public-safety benefit;
4. the estimated compensation cost;
5. the effect on sporting disciplines and lawful use; and
6. the reason the existing 15-round limit is said to be no longer appropriate.

In the absence of such evidence, the existing 15-round limit should remain.

8. AR-pattern, handgun and other cross-platform magazines

The Bill does not adequately address magazines compatible with more than one firearm platform.

This issue affects:

- AR or STANAG-pattern magazines used in both self-loading and manually operated rifles;
- Glock-pattern and other handgun magazines also accepted by pistol-calibre rifles or carbines;
- magazines supplied for a Category H handgun but physically compatible with another firearm; and
- magazines used across bolt-action, straight-pull, lever-release and self-loading platforms.

Section 118 of the current Firearms Act applies different tests according to a magazine's capacity and the platform for which it was designed, adapted or capable of being used.^[6]

Section 118(2) prohibits a detachable magazine holding more than five rounds where it is designed or adapted for use with a self-loading centre-fire rifle. The wording appears to focus on the magazine's design or adaptation, not solely the firearm with which it is actually possessed.

An AR-pattern magazine holding more than five rounds may therefore arguably be caught even where it is possessed and used only with a lawful manually operated rifle. By contrast, a purpose-built bolt-action magazine of the same capacity may be lawful under the limit applying to that firearm.

The same problem arises with handgun magazines. A standard magazine may be lawfully acquired and possessed for an authorised Category H handgun but also be physically compatible with a self-loading pistol-calibre rifle or carbine. The legality of the magazine should not change merely because another manufacturer later produces a different firearm accepting the same magazine.

This is particularly important for approved handgun competitors whose disciplines require magazines holding more than five rounds.

I have been advised that Firearms Services is not presently enforcing section 118 against certain AR-pattern magazines used in manually operated rifles or certain cross-platform handgun magazines. Tasmania Police should confirm its current position in writing.

In any event, a present administrative decision not to enforce a provision does not provide:

- a statutory exemption;
- a defence to prosecution;
- protection against seizure;
- binding protection for a licence holder; or
- a guarantee that a future Commissioner, policy, legal opinion or court decision will adopt the same interpretation.

The maximum penalty under section 118 is 50 penalty units, imprisonment for up to two years, or both.^[6] Licence holders should not face that exposure while relying on an unwritten or non-binding assurance.

Required amendment

Section 118 should be amended so that the lawful status of a cross-platform magazine is determined by its actual lawful possession and intended use with an authorised firearm, subject to the capacity limit applying to that firearm.

The Act should expressly provide that a magazine is lawful where:

1. the person is authorised to possess the firearm with which the magazine is ordinarily used;
2. the magazine does not exceed the capacity permitted for that firearm;
3. the magazine is possessed for lawful use with that firearm; and
4. it is not being used with an unauthorised or prohibited firearm.

Express protection should be included for:

- magazines possessed for Category H handguns;
- magazines used in approved handgun competitions;
- AR-pattern magazines possessed for lawful manually operated rifles;
- magazines supplied with or approved for a registered manually operated firearm; and
- other cross-platform magazines not possessed for use with an unauthorised firearm.

Tasmania Police should also publish binding guidance dealing specifically with AR and STANAG-pattern magazines, Glock-pattern and other handgun magazines, pistol-calibre carbine magazines and magazines compatible with both manually operated and self-loading platforms.

The proposed reduction of the bolt-action limit should not proceed until these existing section 118 problems have been resolved.

9. Grandfathering, compensation and transition arrangements

The consultation material states that a buyback will be required, while funding arrangements remain subject to negotiation.^[7]

Parliament should not enact provisions that make lawfully acquired property prohibited before the buyback and transition arrangements are fully known.

The legislation or accompanying scheme should specify:

- who is eligible for compensation;
- how market value will be assessed;
- whether compensation includes magazines, optics, mounts and firearm-specific accessories;
- how customised, rare or discontinued firearms will be valued;
- compensation for dealer stock and demonstrable business loss;
- treatment of firearms held under finance arrangements;
- whether existing owners may retain affected firearms under grandfathered authority;
- time allowed for modification, transfer, sale or surrender;
- treatment of deceased estates and pending transfers;
- reimbursement of licence, permit and dealer costs; and
- an independent valuation and review process.

Compensation should reflect genuine market or replacement value immediately before the restriction was announced. A person should not be financially disadvantaged because the Government changed the legal classification of property that Tasmania Police had previously authorised the person to acquire.

No relevant offence should commence until:

1. the final affected-model list has been published;
2. every registered owner has received direct written notice;
3. compensation values and review rights have been established;
4. the buyback is fully funded and operational; and
5. a reasonable compliance period has expired.

The preferred approach remains full grandfathering of all affected firearms and magazines already lawfully possessed.

10. Proposed ownership caps outside the current consultation Bill

The current consultation Bill does not contain a general numerical cap on firearm ownership. However, Tasmanian Labor has publicly supported caps and indicated that it would work with the crossbench to pursue them. Public reporting has referred to proposed limits of five firearms for hunters and 10 for primary producers.^[8] Public debate has also referred to the New South Wales model, which generally limits recreational licence holders to four firearms.

The Police Commissioner wrote to the Government on 5 February 2026 supporting firearm ownership caps and referred to the murder of Constable Keith Smith, the Bondi attack and firearm theft risks.^[9]

The publicly available material identified for this submission establishes the Commissioner's position in February 2026. I have not identified a published recommendation for a numerical cap from Tasmania Police during 2025, including in the period immediately following Constable Smith's death.

That raises a legitimate question: what Tasmanian evidence, statistics or risk assessment changed between 2025 and February 2026 to make a numerical cap necessary?

If the Commissioner's position was based on new evidence, that evidence should be published. It should explain:

- the relationship between the number of firearms lawfully owned and the risk of offending;
- how many stolen or criminally used firearms came from owners exceeding each proposed cap;
- whether owners with larger registered collections are statistically more likely to offend;
- why existing fit-and-proper-person, permit-to-acquire and storage requirements are inadequate;
- how the proposed limits of five and 10 were selected; and
- how the proposed caps would have prevented or materially changed the incidents relied upon.

A numerical cap does not assess whether an individual is fit and proper, whether their firearms are securely stored or whether they present an actual risk. It assumes that the number itself is the problem, regardless of conduct, history, storage arrangements or genuine lawful need.

Hunters, sporting shooters, primary producers and collectors may legitimately require different firearms for:

- different calibres and game species;
- different competition disciplines;
- pest and animal control;
- different terrain, property conditions and distances;
- training and backup purposes; and
- historical or collection interests.

Owning six lawful firearms does not make an otherwise fit and proper hunter more dangerous than a person owning five. Nor has it been demonstrated that a primary producer with 11 securely stored firearms presents a greater risk than one with 10.

An ownership cap could also force existing owners to surrender lawfully acquired property despite obtaining permits from Tasmania Police and complying with licensing, registration and storage requirements.

Any ownership-cap proposal should be published separately and subjected to full public consultation. The public should be able to examine:

- the Tasmanian evidence supporting the cap;
- proposed limits and exemptions;
- treatment of existing owners;
- grandfathering and compensation;
- collector provisions;
- occupational, sporting and primary-production needs;
- interaction with lending and Category C numerical limits; and
- the expected measurable public-safety benefit.

A substantial restriction should not be introduced late through an amendment to a Bill released for consultation without a general ownership cap.

The Government and Parliament should instead focus on individual risk, secure storage, domestic and family violence, criminal associations, firearm theft, illegal manufacture and trafficking, and meaningful punishment for offenders.

The number of lawfully owned and securely stored firearms should not, by itself, determine whether a responsible person may retain property previously authorised by Tasmania Police.

11. Temporary storage notification and practical access

The Bill would require a licence holder to notify the Commissioner where a firearm is to be stored at an address other than the licence holder's residential address for more than 24 hours. Notice would ordinarily have to be given at least 24 hours beforehand or, where that was not possible, as soon as practicable and no later than 24 hours afterwards.^[1]

The Bill refers to notification in an "approved form" but does not adequately explain the available methods.

It should state whether notification may be made through:

- an online portal;
- telephone contact with Firearms Services;
- a local police station;
- email;
- personal attendance;
- Service Tasmania;
- a paper form; or
- a combination of those methods.

Weekends and public holidays

A person may unexpectedly need to place a firearm in another lawful storage location on a Friday night, weekend or public holiday. Firearms Services may not be open to answer questions or manually process the notification.

The Government should confirm whether:

- the portal will operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week;
- an email sent within the period constitutes valid notification;
- a voicemail or telephone report will be accepted;
- a local police station can receive and record the notice;
- immediate confirmation and a reference number will be issued; and
- the person is protected if the police system is unavailable or fails to record the notice.

A licensed owner should not face prosecution or licence cancellation because Tasmania Police failed to provide an accessible reporting method outside ordinary business hours.

Rural and remote licence holders

The proposal also fails to recognise the realities of rural and remote Tasmania. Licence holders may live, work, travel or hunt in areas with unreliable mobile reception, no mobile data, limited fixed internet, power outages, long distances to a police station and postal services incapable of meeting a 24-hour deadline.

A person may not know an arrangement will exceed 24 hours until already away from home. Examples include delayed ferry or air travel, bad weather, road closures, emergency work, roster changes, hospitalisation, family emergencies, bushfire or flood evacuation, or the need to leave a firearm securely stored while temporarily working elsewhere.

A serious legal obligation cannot depend exclusively on immediate internet access.

Older licence holders and digital access

The system must also account for older licence holders and others who do not own a smartphone or computer or cannot readily use an online portal or application.

A person who has lawfully owned firearms for decades should not risk prosecution or loss of licence because they cannot complete a digital process within 24 hours.

Required safeguards

Tasmania Police should be required to provide:

1. a secure portal operating at all times;
2. an email option where the sending time is treated as the notification time;
3. an after-hours telephone reporting option;
4. notification through a local police station;
5. immediate confirmation and a reference number;
6. a paper option for planned changes;
7. a reasonable-excuse defence for lack of communications, power failure, system failure, emergency and circumstances outside the licence holder's control; and
8. protection where the person made a genuine attempt to notify but the police system failed to receive or retain the notice.

No offence should commence until every notification channel is operational, tested and publicly explained.

The 24-hour threshold should also be reconsidered. A more practical threshold would be storage exceeding seven consecutive days, with notification required as soon as reasonably practicable after the owner becomes aware that the arrangement will exceed that period.

At minimum, weekends, public holidays, remote-area communication failures and emergency storage must be expressly addressed.

12. Lending, licence verification and borrower-storage checks

I support requiring an owner to confirm that a proposed borrower holds a valid licence or permit for the relevant firearm category.

However, the Bill does not clearly explain what a private lender must do in practice.

Visual inspection and electronic verification

The Bill defines “verify” as verification in the approved manner together with other reasonable steps to confirm that the licence or permit is valid, in force and belongs to the person relying upon it.^[1]

The consultation material indicates that dealers will use an electronic Licence and Permit Verification Service and that private licence holders will use a licence-holder portal.^[10]

The legislation does not clearly state:

- whether the portal must be used in every lending transaction;
- whether inspecting the physical licence is also required;
- what occurs if the portal is unavailable;
- whether the portal confirms authorised firearm categories;
- whether evidence of the check must be retained;
- how long a verification remains valid;
- whether repeated lending between the same people requires a new check each time; or
- whether telephone verification is available without internet access.

These matters should not be left to an unspecified approved process where non-compliance may attract 50 penalty units, two years’ imprisonment, or both.^[1]

The proposed borrower-storage obligation

The Bill goes further than licence verification. A person must not lend a firearm unless the lender ensures that the borrower has the means to comply with the storage requirements and intends to comply with them.^[1]

The licence portal apparently confirms licence status. It does not appear to tell the lender:

- whether the borrower owns or has access to a compliant safe;
- where it is located;
- whether it has been inspected;
- which firearm categories may be stored in it;
- whether it has sufficient capacity;
- whether it is properly constructed or fixed; or
- whether the borrower is currently complying with storage requirements.

The Bill therefore leaves basic questions unanswered:

- Is a verbal assurance sufficient?
- Must the borrower sign a declaration?
- Are photographs required?
- Is the lender expected to enter the borrower’s home and inspect the safe?
- Must the lender assess the locks, construction and method of fixing?
- Is the lender liable if a defect could not reasonably have been identified?

A private firearm owner is not a police storage inspector. A lender should not be required to enter another person’s residence, inspect their safe or certify technical compliance with the Act.

If Tasmania Police has already inspected or recorded the borrower’s storage, there is no reason to require another licence holder to perform an informal second inspection. If police have not

inspected it, responsibility for assessing the safe should not be transferred to a private person who faces potential imprisonment if the assessment is later found to be wrong.

The phrase “has the means to comply” is also unclear where the firearm will be kept at the lender’s property, an approved club, a dealer or gunsmith, a lawful temporary storage location, a safe owned by another licensed person or another nominated storage address.

Required amendment

A private lender’s obligations should be confined to clear and reasonable steps:

1. inspect the borrower’s physical licence and confirm identity;
2. use the official system to confirm that the licence remains valid and covers the relevant category;
3. obtain a written or electronic declaration that lawful storage is available and will be used;
4. retain the verification reference number and date; and
5. submit any required lending or storage-location information through the official system.

The legislation should expressly provide that:

- a lender is not required to inspect another person’s residence or safe;
- a lender may rely on the official verification result;
- a lender may rely on the borrower’s storage declaration unless the lender knows or reasonably suspects it is false;
- responsibility for the borrower’s actual storage compliance remains with the borrower;
- no offence is committed where the lender took the prescribed reasonable steps;
- telephone or offline verification is available when the portal is inaccessible; and
- system failure and remote-area communications failure constitute a reasonable excuse.

The proposed portal, declaration and record-keeping requirements should be published before Parliament is asked to enact the offence.

13. Production of firearms for inspection

The Bill expands the obligation to produce a firearm for inspection from the registered owner to any person possessing it.^[1]

That may be reasonable where police are investigating a particular firearm or verifying lawful possession. However, the obligation should be subject to safeguards.

Production should occur:

- at a reasonable time;
- in a safe place;
- within a reasonable period;
- without requiring unsafe or unlawful transport;
- subject to immediate safety and emergency circumstances; and
- with written confirmation if the firearm is temporarily retained by police.

A person should not commit an offence because immediate production was physically impossible or unsafe.

14. Citizenship requirement

The Bill would make Australian citizenship the default eligibility requirement, with specified provision for certain New Zealand citizens and a discretionary exemption process.^[1]

Citizenship is not, by itself, a reliable measure of firearm risk. A permanent resident may have lived in Tasmania for decades, passed repeated fit-and-proper-person assessments and complied with all licensing and storage requirements. An Australian citizen may nevertheless be unsuitable because of violence, criminal offending, domestic violence, health concerns or other risk factors.

Public safety is better addressed through confirmed identity, lawful residency, criminal-history and domestic-violence checks, intelligence assessment, genuine reason, fit-and-proper-person requirements, safe storage and ongoing monitoring.

At minimum:

- existing permanent-resident licence holders should be grandfathered;
- permanent residents should remain eligible subject to the ordinary fit-and-proper test;
- exemption criteria should be stated in legislation or regulations;
- applications should be determined within a specified period;
- reasons should be provided for refusal; and
- applicants should have review rights.

A person should not lose lawfully acquired property merely because citizenship processing was delayed or because an uncertain discretionary exemption was refused.

15. Suppressors, hearing protection and legitimate use

The Bill changes the terminology from “firearm sound suppressor” to “suppressor” but does not reconsider the general prohibition.^[1]

Suppressors do not make firearms silent. Their practical function is to reduce peak muzzle noise. They can operate as an engineering control by reducing noise at its source. They do not remove the need for hearing protection, but they can be used together with earmuffs or earplugs to reduce overall exposure.

Tasmania Police use

I understand that Tasmania Police uses suppressors on some operational firearms. The Government should confirm the extent and occupational-safety basis of that practice in its response to the consultation.

Where Tasmania Police considers a suppressor an appropriate engineering control for its own personnel, the same safety principle should be available under strict permit conditions to other licensed people regularly exposed to firearm noise.

Occupational, rural and hunting use

A controlled permit system should be available to:

- primary producers;

- professional pest controllers;
- government wildlife and animal-control officers;
- veterinarians and animal-welfare personnel;
- firearm instructors and range personnel;
- employees required to use firearms occupationally;
- people undertaking authorised pest-control work;
- licence holders with medically supported hearing conditions; and
- other licence holders with a genuine occupational, hunting, safety, environmental or animal-welfare need.

Licensed hunters should also be eligible. Hunters may be exposed to centre-fire firearm noise in circumstances where conventional hearing protection is difficult to use effectively while maintaining awareness of other hunters, landowners, dogs, livestock, vehicles, verbal directions, wildlife movement and surrounding hazards.

Electronic hearing protection can assist but does not reduce the sound at the firearm itself and may not be practical in every field situation. A suppressor reduces noise at source and can still be used with other hearing protection where practicable.

Suppressors may also reduce disturbance to neighbouring residences, rural properties, livestock, horses, working and hunting dogs, native wildlife and other lawful users of rural land. The benefit may be significant during repeated pest-control work.

Controlled permit system

A permit system could require:

1. a demonstrated occupational, hunting, hearing-protection, animal-welfare, environmental or medical need;
 2. an appropriate firearm licence and genuine reason;
 3. approval of the firearm and suppressor combination;
 4. registration or formal recording of the suppressor;
 5. storage equivalent to the associated firearm;
 6. use only with specified registered firearms;
 7. use only on land where the person may lawfully hunt, shoot or undertake animal control;
 8. restrictions on lending and transfer;
 9. appropriate training;
 10. continued use of hearing protection where reasonably practicable; and
 11. cancellation where the holder ceases to have a genuine need or breaches permit conditions.
- This would not create unrestricted access. It would establish a controlled and accountable system for legitimate users who demonstrate a genuine need.

16. Proportionate treatment of administrative breaches

There is a concerning imbalance between the consequences imposed on licensed owners for technical or administrative breaches and the response to serious criminal conduct involving stolen firearms.

Under the proposed amendments, a licensed owner could potentially face substantial penalties for conduct involving no violence, theft, dishonesty or criminal use, including:

- failing to notify a secure temporary storage change within the proposed timeframe;
- using the wrong verification method before lending;
- misunderstanding the borrower-storage obligation;
- on-lending between otherwise appropriately licensed people;
- retaining a magazine that was lawful before the capacity limit changed; or
- misunderstanding the classification of an AR-pattern or cross-platform magazine.

The lending offences may attract a maximum of 50 penalty units, two years' imprisonment, or both.^[1]

Those maximum penalties may be appropriate for deliberate or dangerous conduct. They are disproportionate where the breach is inadvertent, administrative, promptly corrected and creates no identifiable risk.

The law should distinguish between:

1. an inadvertent or first-time administrative breach creating no identifiable risk;
2. reckless or repeated non-compliance creating an actual risk; and
3. deliberate criminal conduct involving violence, theft, trafficking or diversion into the illicit market.

First-time and low-risk administrative breaches should ordinarily be addressed through education, a warning, a compliance notice or an opportunity to correct the breach.

Prosecution, imprisonment and licence cancellation should be reserved for deliberate, repeated, dishonest, reckless or genuinely dangerous conduct.

17. Serious firearm theft, sentencing and bail

The Bill proposes a minimum term of three months' imprisonment for specified offences involving stealing a firearm, possessing a stolen firearm and unlawful firearm trafficking, and increases the maximum fine for possession of a stolen firearm.^[1]

I support tougher punishment for people who steal, traffic, conceal or criminally use firearms. However, a three-month minimum is inadequate for the most aggravated forms of firearm theft and trafficking.

The legislation should distinguish lower-level possession from offending involving:

- violence or threats;
- an occupied home;
- restraint or assault;
- organised planning;
- multiple stolen firearms;
- arson;
- trafficking for profit;
- deliberate supply to criminals; or
- firearms that remain unrecovered.

Offending involving those features should attract substantially stronger custodial penalties.

Coles Bay case

Recent alleged events at Coles Bay illustrate the type of conduct on which stronger laws should focus. According to ABC reporting, three men were charged with offences including attempted aggravated burglary, aggravated burglary, aggravated armed robbery, aggravated assault, arson and motor vehicle stealing. It is alleged that a 76-year-old man was restrained and assaulted, his vehicle was stolen, 15 firearms were taken and his home was burnt down.^[11]

The firearms reportedly remained missing when one accused person was granted bail following a second application.^[12]

No conclusion should be drawn about the guilt of any accused person before trial. Bail is not punishment, and the complete evidence and reasons considered by the court are not available from media reporting.

Nevertheless, the circumstances raise a legitimate public-policy question. How is it proportionate for a licensed owner to face a possible two-year term for a lending technicality while a person accused of serious violence associated with the theft and disappearance of 15 firearms remains eligible for bail under the ordinary framework?

The Government should review the Bail Act 1994 and consider a presumption against bail, or an exceptional-circumstances test, for clearly defined serious offences involving:

- aggravated firearm theft;
- theft of multiple firearms;
- firearm trafficking;
- armed robbery;
- serious violence during a firearm theft;
- entry into an occupied residence to steal firearms;
- arson associated with firearm theft;
- organised diversion into the illicit market; or
- stolen firearms that remain unrecovered.

When determining bail in those cases, the court should be expressly required to consider:

- the number and type of firearms allegedly stolen;
- whether they remain unrecovered;
- the risk that the accused could assist in hiding, moving or disposing of them;
- interference with victims, witnesses, evidence or co-accused;
- whether violence, restraint, armed robbery or arson is alleged;
- the likelihood of further serious offending; and
- the continuing danger posed by missing firearms.

The strongest enforcement powers, penalties and bail restrictions should be directed towards violent offenders, firearm thieves and traffickers, not otherwise responsible owners who make minor administrative errors.

18. Summary prosecution of serious firearm offences

The Bill would allow certain unlawful-trafficking and stolen-firearm matters to be dealt with summarily where the prosecution and defendant consent.^[1]

There may be a legitimate role for summary determination of lower-level cases. However, serious offending involving multiple firearms, organised trafficking, violence, occupied residences, repeated conduct or deliberate supply to criminals should not be downgraded merely for administrative convenience.

Aggravated matters should ordinarily remain indictable and be dealt with at a level reflecting their seriousness.

19. Publication of the supporting evidence

Before the Bill proceeds, the Government should publish:

1. the expert advice relied upon to redefine “firearm” and “firearm part”;
2. a model-by-model technical assessment supporting reclassification;
3. crime, theft and misuse statistics for the affected action types;
4. evidence supporting the proposed 10-round bolt-action magazine limit;
5. legal and technical analysis of AR-pattern and other cross-platform magazines under section 118;
6. clear guidance concerning handgun magazines also compatible with rifles or carbines;
7. the proposed operation of the temporary-storage notification system;
8. every available method of notification on weekends and public holidays;
9. the proposed lending-verification and borrower-storage declaration process;
10. the estimated number of affected owners, firearms and magazines;
11. the estimated buyback and administrative cost;
12. the effect on dealers, clubs, competitors, hunters and primary producers;
13. proposed exemption and review criteria;
14. information concerning Tasmania Police’s operational use of suppressors;
15. the reasons less restrictive alternatives were rejected;
16. historical registration data showing how many straight-pull firearms were lawfully registered before and after the Firearms Act 1996;
17. the cybersecurity architecture, independent testing and breach-notification safeguards for firearm and storage records; and
18. the Tasmanian evidence relied upon for any proposed numerical ownership cap.

20. Requested amendments

I request that the Government amend the Bill and associated implementation arrangements as follows.

Reclassification and Category C

1. Retain manually operated straight-pull, toggle-action and button or lever-release centre-fire firearms in Category B.
2. If reclassification proceeds, grandfather every affected firearm to its existing owner.
3. Do not restrict existing owners to one firearm within the reclassified group.
4. Create a transitional endorsement for existing owners, sporting users, hunters and others with an established genuine need.
5. Publish an exhaustive list of affected makes and models before commencement.
6. Clarify expressly whether toggle-action firearms are included.
7. Require public consultation and independent technical review before further models are added.

Magazines and section 118

8. Retain the existing 15-round bolt-action magazine limit.
9. Grandfather all affected magazines already lawfully possessed.
10. Amend section 118 so magazine legality is determined according to actual lawful possession and use with an authorised firearm.
11. Expressly protect AR-pattern magazines lawfully possessed for manually operated rifles.
12. Expressly protect Category H handgun magazines, including magazines also compatible with pistol-calibre rifles or carbines.

Grandfathering, compensation and ownership caps

13. Do not commence any prohibition until the buyback is fully funded and operational.
14. Require fair market or replacement-value compensation, including firearm-specific accessories and demonstrable dealer losses.
15. Reject arbitrary numerical ownership caps that are not supported by published Tasmanian evidence.
16. Require any ownership-cap proposal to undergo separate public consultation, including full details of exemptions, grandfathering, compensation and the evidence used to select each limit.

National Firearms Register and cybersecurity

17. Require independent cybersecurity testing, strict access controls, access logging and regular system upgrades to address emerging and AI-assisted threats.
18. Require prompt notification to licence holders following any actual or suspected compromise of their firearm or storage-location information.

19. Prohibit adverse licensing or enforcement action based solely on an automated or AI-assisted decision without human review.

Temporary storage and notification

20. Extend the temporary-storage threshold from 24 hours to a practical period such as seven consecutive days.
21. Provide secure online, telephone, email, police-station and paper notification methods.
22. Ensure notification services are available on weekends and public holidays.
23. Provide immediate confirmation and reference numbers.
24. Include reasonable-excuse protections for remote-area communications failures, power failures, system outages, emergencies and genuine unsuccessful attempts to notify.

Lending and borrower storage

25. Limit the lender's obligation to reasonable and clearly prescribed verification steps.
26. Require inspection of the licence and official confirmation of validity, with offline alternatives where required.
27. Permit lenders to rely on an official verification result and a borrower storage declaration.
28. State expressly that private lenders are not required to inspect another person's residence or firearm safe.
29. Keep responsibility for the borrower's actual storage compliance with the borrower.
30. Include practical exemptions or procedures for dealers, clubs, gunsmiths, coaches, emergency storage and deceased estates.

Other licensing and use provisions

31. Require firearm-production requests to be complied with within a reasonable time and in a safe manner.
32. Grandfather established permanent residents from the citizenship requirement.
33. Publish exemption criteria and provide review rights for citizenship decisions.
34. Establish a controlled suppressor permit system for primary producers, occupational users, pest controllers, animal-welfare personnel and licensed hunters.
35. Recognise hearing protection, hunting, animal welfare, reduced rural disturbance and occupational safety as legitimate permit reasons.
36. Confirm Tasmania Police's operational use of suppressors and explain the occupational-safety basis for that use.

Penalties, sentencing and bail

37. Introduce warnings and compliance notices for first-time, inadvertent and low-risk administrative breaches.
38. Reserve imprisonment and licence cancellation for deliberate, repeated, dishonest, reckless or dangerous conduct.
39. Increase custodial penalties for aggravated firearm theft and trafficking involving violence, occupied homes, multiple firearms or organised offending.

40. Review the Bail Act 1994 to establish a presumption against bail or exceptional-circumstances test for defined serious violent offences involving stolen or unrecovered firearms.
41. Require courts determining bail to give substantial weight to the number of firearms involved, whether they remain missing and the continuing community risk.
42. Ensure serious aggravated trafficking and firearm-theft matters are not dealt with summarily merely for administrative convenience.
43. Publish the full technical, evidentiary, cybersecurity and financial basis for the restrictions before the Bill is introduced into Parliament.

Conclusion

I support a properly designed National Firearms Register and strong laws directed towards violent offenders, firearm thieves, traffickers and people who deliberately divert firearms into criminal hands.

I do not support using the National Firearms Register process to impose unrelated restrictions on compliant Tasmanian firearm owners without clear evidence that those restrictions will improve public safety.

The proposed reclassification of manually operated firearms is not expressly required by the National Firearms Agreement. Straight-pull rifles are not a recent workaround developed to evade the 1996 reforms; they are a long-established form of manually operated bolt-action firearm. The Bill would also extend a Category C numerical structure developed around two existing restricted firearm groups to a third, manually operated centre-fire group without demonstrating why the same one-firearm formula is appropriate.

The magazine reduction is unsupported and fails to resolve existing uncertainty affecting AR-pattern, handgun and other cross-platform magazines under section 118.

Any proposal for numerical ownership caps should be separately consulted upon and supported by published Tasmanian evidence. The number of lawfully owned and securely stored firearms does not, by itself, establish that a fit and proper licence holder presents an increased risk.

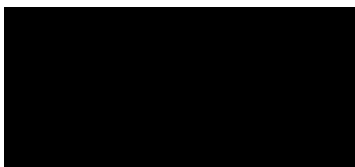
The temporary-storage provisions do not adequately address weekends, public holidays, remote areas, limited communications, older licence holders or police-system failures. The lending provisions do not explain how a private owner is expected to verify another person's storage. A private licence holder should not be turned into an informal police storage inspector and exposed to imprisonment for failing to identify a technical defect in another person's safe.

The centralisation of firearm and storage-location information also creates a serious cybersecurity risk. The system must be independently tested, tightly controlled and continually upgraded against emerging and AI-assisted attacks, with immediate notification where sensitive records may have been compromised.

The suppressor prohibition should be reconsidered. Where suppressors are used as an occupational noise-control measure, the same engineering-control principle should be available under strict permit conditions to primary producers, pest controllers, occupational users and licensed hunters.

Most importantly, the legislation should reflect the actual hierarchy of risk. A licensed owner who makes a paperwork or technical error should not be treated more harshly than the conduct warrants. People who violently steal, traffic, conceal or criminally use firearms should face meaningful custodial penalties and appropriately strict bail laws.

The Government should focus its strongest response on those responsible for placing firearms into criminal hands, not compliant owners whose firearms are registered, securely stored and lawfully used.



References

- [1] Tasmania Police, Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026 – Consultation Version, 2 July 2026.
- [2] Australian Government Attorney-General's Department, 2017 National Firearms Agreement, 1 February 2017.
- [3] Winchester Repeating Arms, Historical Timeline 1860–1899, entry recording production of the 6mm Lee straight-pull rifle for the United States Navy in 1895.
- [4] Imperial War Museums, collection records for Ross Rifle Mk 3, M1910 and related pre-First World War and First World War rifles.
- [5] Australian Army, Blaser Tactical 2, describing the firearm as a straight-pull, bolt-operated action rifle.
- [6] Firearms Act 1996 (Tas), current section 118.
- [7] Tasmania Police, consultation page and Consultation Information Sheet for the Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026.
- [8] ABC News, Impassioned plea from Tasmania's top cop no match for political realities on gun ownership caps, 16 March 2026.
- [9] ABC News, Plea from Tasmania's police commissioner for limit on gun ownership knocked back by government, 15 March 2026.
- [10] Tasmania Police, Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026 – Questions and Answers.
- [11] ABC News, Three men charged over alleged Coles Bay robbery and arson in which man had to watch home burn down, 17 July 2026.
- [12] ABC News, Charlie Hills bailed over alleged Grant Whelan assault, home arson in Coles Bay, 31 July 2026, updated 1 August 2026.

Web sources accessed 3 August 2026.

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 6 August 2026 8:55 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Consultation on the Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026

[REDACTED]
To Whom it May Concern

In response to the proposed Firearms Amendments Bill, I am strongly opposed to a National Firearms Registry and the restrictions it would implement on law abiding firearms owners.

A centralised database of gun owner may be subject to hackers and data breaches. It may result in unwarranted surveillance of law-abiding citizens and discrimination by tyrannical public servants as was seen during the Covid pandemic on those that opted out of vaccination. There is no mention of which international intelligence agencies would have access to this information and what impact this would have on travel abroad.

I oppose any changes to the *Firearms Act 1996* in Tasmania. I support stronger penalties for stealing and receiving stolen firearms.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 6 August 2026 8:18 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Firearms Amendments bill 2026

[REDACTED]

To whom it may concern.

Hello, my name is [REDACTED]. I am heavily involved in the firearms industry in Tasmania, and I personally participate in many different aspects of the industry as a whole.

I believe that some of the proposed amendments to the current firearms laws are a step in the wrong direction; but i do also believe that some are a step in the right direction and that with some time and consideration they could be a wonderful thing.

I believe that any changes that would see the restriction and reclassification of firearms in Tasmania, is nothing more than a un-educated low blow to the law abiding firearms owners of Tasmania. These people are some of the best people in the state and have done nothing wrong so i don't understand why they are being punished for the actions of criminals and terrorists.

Many of the firearms that would be removed are some of the finest and highest quality hunting rifles and collectable service rifles ever made with some dating back more than 140 years and that is something that should be protected.

I believe that the proposed capacity restrictions on Category A and B Firearms are not required and that they wouldn't achieve anything more than taking legally purchased firearms accessories away from lawful shooters, Farmers and firearms professionals.

There is no supporting evidence that any restrictions against law abiding firearms owners would have any affect on public safty.

The restrictions on non Australian citizens from owning firearms is something that needs to have more consideration. I believe that if someone meets the requirements as a fit and proper person they should be eligible for a licence, but there should definitely be extra consideration taken if that person is a non citizen or dual citizen; such as extra security checks and a more thorough inspection of that person's past exploits.

I believe that the decision to grant or refuse a licence should not be held solely by the police commissioner and that there should be a independent civil committee that oversees the review process.

I believe that the continued persecution and treatment of law-abiding firearm owners is utterly disgraceful and that it is currently sitting at borderline deformation that elected officials and government employees believe that they have the right to treat people this way.

I believe that the use of sound suppressors in the shooting industry should be opened up and supported. It is simply a matter of health and safety for the shooters and their spectator's aswell as

the wider public, these are little more than an accessory that are completely legal and mostly unregulated in most countries.

[REDACTED] i believe that the proposed labour/Greens firearms caps is nothing more than government overreach and that it wouldnt have any affect on public safety. I think that an increase in the storage and security requirements for firearms owners is a possible alternative to limiting the number of firearms that a person can own.

I am in full support of the government's legislation aimed at criminals and terrorism and I believe that the theft of firearms should be treated as a major crime and that the proposed punishments for such acts aren't strong enough, the punishment should fit the crime and firearms theft has the risk of being one of the most horrific.

[REDACTED] I believe that the government should be helping businesses and the people rather than frightening and intimidating, Tasmania has some of the greatest and most skilled craftsman and machinists in the country and we should be looking to capitise on that rather than pushing it away.

These are some of my concerns and my opinion on the proposed amendments. If you've got any questions I'd me more than happy to discuss it.

Please make sure to take into consideration the lives your possibly going to destroy and the buisness your going to ruin before making and irreversible decisions.

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 5 August 2026 6:10 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Firearms Amendment Bill

[REDACTED]
To who it may concern

- I do not support the proposed changes to Tasmania's firearm legislation because the potential benefits have not been clearly demonstrated and may be outweighed by unintended consequences.
- Legislative reform should only occur where there is strong evidence that existing arrangements are inadequate. In this case, the proposed changes risk increasing complexity, reducing flexibility, or creating inequitable outcomes without sufficiently addressing the underlying issue. The proposed legislative changes are not reflective of community expectations and don't address the genuine identified issue of stopping non-citizens from obtaining firearm licences and firearms.
- There has not been sufficient consideration of the impact of the proposed changes on law-abiding licenced firearm owners.
- Good legislation provides clarity, certainty, and proportionality. Any amendment that increases regulatory burden, reduces procedural fairness, or limits the ability to assess matters on their individual merits should be carefully scrutinised. Before significant changes are implemented, consideration should be given to whether the desired outcomes could be achieved through alternative measures that are less restrictive and more targeted.
- I don't believe that lever release/push button or firearm caps will deter criminal behaviour, as criminals are far more likely to obtain firearms through the dark web or from criminal associates or organisations.
- Licenced firearm owners go through substantial checks over an extended timeframe, including licence application, assessment of reason/s for wanting a firearm licence, undertaking TAFE courses for all relevant licence types, obtain a permit to acquire (PTA) for every firearm and have a Tasmania police inspection of firearm safe/s and storage of associated keys. It feels like law-abiding licenced firearm owners are being targeted by the proposed changes, rather than the criminals that the government has identified as a problem.
- There appears to be no consideration of law-abiding licenced firearm owners inheriting family-owned firearms that have sentimental value but may not necessarily be intended for use.
- Legislated firearm caps will limit options for sports shooting competitions and appear likely to increase unethical killing of animals.
- Firearms require considerable maintenance, so it may be necessary to have a spare one to use when a firearm is unusable
- Lever release/push button firearms have their place in the hands of B Licenced firearm owners.
- While there may be a small proportion of licenced firearm owners who do the wrong thing, most are law-abiding citizens like me. The majority shouldn't be punished for the sins of the few.

Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026

Prepared in response to the Tasmanian Government consultation

BACKGROUND OR INTEREST

Licensed Firearms owner

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Submission summary

Overall, this submission supports 8 amendments, opposes 12, is unsure about 0, and records no comment on 1.

8 SUPPORT	12 OPPOSE	0 UNSURE	1 NO COMMENT
1 OPPOSE	2 OPPOSE	3 SUPPORT	
4 SUPPORT	5 NO COMMENT	6 OPPOSE	
7 OPPOSE	8 OPPOSE	9 SUPPORT	
10 OPPOSE	11 OPPOSE	12 OPPOSE	
13 SUPPORT	14 SUPPORT	15 SUPPORT	
16 SUPPORT	17 OPPOSE	18 OPPOSE	
19 OPPOSE	20 SUPPORT	21 OPPOSE	

AMENDMENT 1

Reclassification of straight-pull and button/lever-release centre-fire rifles and shotguns, including lever-action shotguns

OPPOSE

Concerns that have been raised

- Classification should be based on evidence rather than appearance, public reaction to specific events, or theoretical differences in cycling speed.
- Some firearm owners consider the practical rate of fire between conventional bolt-action and straight-pull manually operated firearms to be broadly comparable, and may question whether any difference is sufficient to justify reclassification.
- Category C access is significantly more restricted and the proposal could prevent ordinary licence holders from continuing to own firearms that may have substantial financial or sentimental value.
- Strengthened storage requirements, theft-prevention measures and enforcement against unlawful possession may have a greater impact on public safety than reclassification alone.
- The proposal may impose substantial cost on lawful owners without a demonstrated public-safety benefit proportionate to that impact.

Suggested alternatives

- More targeted enforcement against unlawful possession.

AMENDMENT 2

Australian citizenship as the default firearms-licensing requirement

OPPOSE

Concerns that have been raised

- Citizenship is not necessarily a measure of a person's character, safety or suitability.

Suggested alternatives

- More targeted enforcement against unlawful possession.
- A narrower amendment focused on the identified risk.

AMENDMENT 3

Restriction on on-lending firearms

SUPPORT

Reasons given in support

- It may reduce the chance of loss, misplacement or unauthorised possession.

AMENDMENT 4

Verification of borrower licence and storage

SUPPORT

Reasons given in support

- It promotes responsible lending and lawful storage.
- It may prevent accidental lending to a suspended, expired or unsuitable licence holder.

AMENDMENT 5

Nationally consistent firearm terminology

NO COMMENT

AMENDMENT 6

Clarification of firearm and firearm-part definitions

OPPOSE

Concerns that have been raised

- Overly broad definitions could capture ordinary, non-pressure-bearing or unregulated components.
- Definitions should distinguish critical operating parts from generic hardware and accessories.
- Owners and businesses need clear transitional guidance for newly regulated parts.

AMENDMENT 7

Notification of storage away from the owner's residence

OPPOSE

Concerns that have been raised

- A 24-hour threshold may be impractical for hunting trips, competitions, work, repairs or emergencies.
- The rule should focus on the primary storage location rather than brief lawful travel.

AMENDMENT 8

Notification before changing residential address

OPPOSE

Concerns that have been raised

- Unexpected separation, housing loss, emergencies or settlement changes may make advance notice impossible.
- The obligation should use a reasonable period and avoid penalising harmless delay.

AMENDMENT 9

Expanded authority for firearms dealer employees

SUPPORT

Reasons given in support

- It may improve practical business operation and staffing flexibility.
- Licensed and vetted employees could handle routine transactions.
- Clear authority may reduce uncertainty under the current law.

AMENDMENT 10

Seven-day Tasmanian licence application for new interstate residents

OPPOSE

Concerns that have been raised

- Seven days is very short during a household move and may be difficult where documents or appointments are unavailable.
- Interstate licences should remain recognised while a timely Tasmanian application is processed.

AMENDMENT 11

Advance notice of changes in personal particulars

OPPOSE

Concerns that have been raised

- Many personal changes are not known seven days in advance.
- An 'as soon as practicable' option should apply to unplanned changes.
- Technical noncompliance should not attract disproportionate penalties.

AMENDMENT 12**Production of firearms for police inspection****OPPOSE****Concerns that have been raised**

- Requests should require a clear lawful basis and reasonable time for compliance.
- The law should account for firearms stored elsewhere or temporarily inaccessible.
- Safeguards are needed against arbitrary or unnecessarily intrusive demands.

AMENDMENT 13**Possession of stolen firearms offence and penalty****SUPPORT****Reasons given in support**

- Stolen firearms present a serious public-safety risk and stronger penalties may be justified.
- The change targets unlawful possession rather than licensed ownership.

AMENDMENT 14**Alternative conviction for possession of stolen firearms****SUPPORT****Reasons given in support**

- It may avoid a complete acquittal where serious proven conduct falls short of trafficking.
- The lesser offence would still need to be proven.

AMENDMENT 15**Summary trial option for unlawful firearms trafficking****SUPPORT****Reasons given in support**

- Consent from both parties protects choice of forum.
- Suitable cases may be resolved more quickly and efficiently.
- It may reduce higher-court delay and cost.

AMENDMENT 16**New summary offence of stealing a firearm or firearm part****SUPPORT****Reasons given in support**

- A specific summary offence may permit timely prosecution of suitable cases.
- It recognises the particular danger associated with stolen firearms.

AMENDMENT 17**Expansion of firearm prohibition orders****OPPOSE****Concerns that have been raised**

- The definition of firearm part must be precise and proportionate.
- Orders should remain reviewable and based on evidence of risk.
- Incidental possession of generic items should not create unfair liability.

AMENDMENT 18**Magazine ammunition-capacity limits for Category A and B firearms****OPPOSE****Concerns that have been raised**

- The government should publish evidence linking affected magazine capacities to Tasmanian crime risk.
- Limits may have little effect on criminals using stolen or prohibited firearms.
- The proposal may impose costs on sporting shooters, hunters and primary producers.

AMENDMENT 19**Updated identification requirements for licence applications****OPPOSE****Concerns that have been raised**

- Requirements should remain accessible to people without standard documents.
- Alternative identity pathways should be available.
- The change should not introduce unnecessary collection or retention of personal data.

AMENDMENT 20**Three-month mandatory minimum imprisonment for stolen-firearm offences****SUPPORT****Reasons given in support**

- Stealing or knowingly possessing a stolen firearm is serious and creates community risk.
- The measure is directed at criminal firearm diversion.

AMENDMENT 21**Electronic firearms dealer record keeping****OPPOSE****Concerns that have been raised**

- Cybersecurity, outages, backups and access controls must be addressed.
- Small dealers should receive support and reasonable transition time.
- Clear rules are needed for data ownership, corrections and retention.

Further suggestions

- Require all firearm safes to be securely affixed to the floor and/or wall.
- Publish the evidence relied upon for each firearm reclassification and explain the expected public-safety benefit.
- Separate broadly supported administrative and criminal-law reforms from contentious firearm reclassification proposals.
- Increase penalties for stealing firearms or assisting firearm theft.
- Provide grants or rebates to help lawful owners upgrade firearm storage.
- Focus future reforms on reducing theft, unlawful possession and criminal misuse while minimising unnecessary impacts on people already complying with the law.

Closing comments

- Some amendments may make a real difference to community safety, while others may unfairly affect lawful owners without a demonstrated reduction in risk.
- Lawful firearm ownership and criminal misuse should be treated as separate policy questions, with restrictions directed at the actual source of harm.
- The final legislation should strike a fair balance between community safety and the rights and responsibilities of people already complying with the law.

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 4 August 2026 6:47 AM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Proposed Tasmanian gun reform

[REDACTED]
To whom it may concern

I support

- Stronger penalties for stealing firearms
- Stronger penalties and mandatory minimums for possessing stolen firearms
- Laws that actually target criminals and terrorist

I oppose

- Reclassifying straight-pull and lever/button-release centre-fire rifles and shotguns to Category C
- New detachable magazine limits on Category A and B firearms
- Making Australian citizenship the default for a firearms licence
- Restrictive lending rules that require National Firearms Register verification
- 24-hour notification if a firearm is stored away from the registered address
- Cutting the interstate Category A/B transfer window from three months to seven days
- Expanding inspection powers to anyone in possession of a firearm
- National Firearms Register real-time notification and verification rules
- Continued reliance on broad Commissioner exemptions instead of clear legislation

Key reasons

- Straight-pull and lever/button-release firearms are practical for hunting and pest control. No Tasmanian evidence shows they are a public safety risk when held by licensed people.
- Many straight-pull rifles are historical with limited capacity. Reclassifying them destroys irreplaceable firearms.
- New magazine limits on Category A and B have no proven safety benefit. Criminals ignore magazine rules.
- Citizenship as the default creates unnecessary barriers and human-rights issues.
- Tasmania should recognise equivalent overseas licences to support regional tourism and hunting.
- Lending between two licensed people should not need NFR checks.
- The 24-hour storage rule is impractical for multi-day pest control and farm work.
- The National Firearms Register creates a high-value target for hackers after major Australian data breaches.
- Suppressors are occupational health and safety equipment, not silent weapons

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 3 August 2026 11:31 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Firearms Legislation Amendment Bill

[REDACTED]

In relation to the proposed firearms legislation amendments I would like to make my submission as below.

I support the following:

- Stronger penalties for stealing firearms
- Stronger penalties and mandatory minimums for possessing stolen firearms
- Laws that actually target criminals and terrorists

I oppose the following:

- Reclassifying straight-pull and lever/button-release centre-fire rifles and shotguns to Category C
- New detachable magazine limits on Category A and B firearms
- Making Australian citizenship the default for a firearms licence
- Restrictive lending rules that require National Firearms Register verification
- 24-hour notification if a firearm is stored away from the registered address
- Cutting the interstate Category A/B transfer window from three months to seven days
- Expanding inspection powers to anyone in possession of a firearm
- National Firearms Register real-time notification and verification rules
- Continued reliance on broad Commissioner exemptions instead of clear legislation

Key reasons

- Straight-pull and lever/button-release firearms are practical for hunting and pest control. No Tasmanian evidence shows they are a public safety risk when held by licensed people.
- Many straight-pull rifles are historical with limited capacity. Reclassifying them destroys irreplaceable firearms.
- New magazine limits on Category A and B have no proven safety benefit. Criminals ignore magazine rules.
- Citizenship as the default creates unnecessary barriers and human-rights issues.
- Tasmania should recognise equivalent overseas licences to support regional tourism and hunting.
- Lending between two licensed people should not need NFR checks.
- The 24-hour storage rule is impractical for multi-day pest control and farm work.
- The National Firearms Register creates a high-value target for hackers after major Australian data breaches.
- Suppressors are occupational health and safety equipment, not silent weapons.

I also oppose any changes in Tasmania that aren't going after criminals.

Whilst the Bondi terrorist attack was an absolute tragedy there has been no evidence found in the Royal Commission to date that support the need for changes in our current legislation. The events that allowed terrorists to have access to firearms were all failures of government agencies to administer existing legislation.

I cannot see any sound reason for Law Abiding Firearms Owners to be penalised as a result of government incompetence.



Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 2 August 2026 8:46 AM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: A submission of statement opposing firearms reforms

[REDACTED]

Hi Team,

[REDACTED]

I strongly oppose the proposed firearms reform in Tasmania, including the compulsory buyback of lawfully owned firearms and the reclassification of firearms that responsible owners have legally purchased and used for many years.

As a rural property owner, firearms are an essential for protecting my livestock and managing pests – they are not a luxury, they are a necessary part of responsibly managing my property and ensuring the welfare of my animals.

Law abiding firearms owners should not be penalised for the actions of criminals. The focus of any firearms legislation should be on preventing illegal firearms trafficking and targeting those who misuse firearms, rather than placing additional burdens on responsible, licensed owners who already comply with strict regulations.

I respectfully ask that my concerns be taken into consideration before any changes to the legislation are made.

[REDACTED]

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 1 August 2026 6:44 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: AMENDMENT (MISCELLANEOUS) BILL 2026

[REDACTED]

To whom it may concern,
I believe that the laws should stay as is, considering that Tasmania already has the hardest firearm regulations in the country.
I would agree that anyone who was not born in Australia should not be able to legally own firearms or be licensed.
Cheers.

[REDACTED]

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 31 July 2026 6:08 AM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Please oppose further restrictions on lawful firearms owners

[REDACTED]
To whom it may concern.

I am writing as a concerned Tasmanian to ask that you do not support proposed changes to firearm laws that unfairly impact law-abiding firearm owners, hunters, farmers, clubs and outdoor recreation supporters. Clubs provide safe and supervised environments, support volunteers and families, and contribute to regional communities. Firearms are practical tools for hunters and farmers looking to gather food or for vermin/pest control.

Licensed firearm owners in Tasmania such as myself are already subject to strict rules, checks and responsibilities. The focus should be on illegal firearms, criminal misuse and proper enforcement of existing laws, not further restrictions on people who are already doing the right thing.

Shooting and hunting are an important part of my life and for many other Tasmanians too. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Firearms have been a part of my life from a young age. I was taught proper gun control and safety by my dad and other adults around me. I hunt wallaby on the farm for dog tucker and for pest control. I've also began to hunt deer in recent years. I do a bit of clay target shooting every now and then and i have been thinking about joining a club to do some target shooting. If gun ownership caps are put in place, I would find it really hard to narrow down 3-5 guns that would cover these activities. Another way of looking at it is, [REDACTED]. If I was limited to just one socket set and some spanners. It would be very hard to do my job properly. I need the right tools for each job and the same applies for hunting and shooting.

Reclassification of some firearms is very unnecessary and will also make selecting the right gun for the right situation harder.

National Firearms Register (NFR), I see this as a security concern that our information will be placed on an electronic national data base and I am concerned if the NFR comes to fruition. Regardless of how secure and encrypted you may think it is, I'm confident that there will be highly paid hackers out there by criminals that will be able to access the smorgasbord board of information provided by the NFR as to the location and selection of any firearms they wish to steal, unfortunately AI is now out of control and a major assistant to the already capable criminal minded hackers, and if they see a shortfall in the supply of firearms available on the NFR I'm sure the black market will gear up to supply, as short supply of anything needed always triggers an increase in value.

I believe any changes to firearm laws must be based on evidence, proper consultation and genuine public safety outcomes. The people most affected by these laws deserve to be heard before decisions are made.

Please do not support changes that punish law-abiding Tasmanians. I would appreciate a written response outlining your position on this issue.



Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 30 July 2026 7:35 AM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Firearms amendment

[REDACTED]

I reject the amendments! The people are rising up on the increases regulations into every area of our lives. Guns are well controlled and governed by responsible owners- farmers and hunters. Evil people will obtain them no matter what restrictions are put in place.

I'm appealing to common sense.

[REDACTED]

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 23 July 2026 12:03 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Firearm Submission Proposed Changes.

[REDACTED]

To Whom It May Concern,

We have a farming property [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Under present Legislation our firearms that are used on the farm can only be used on our property. We are also involved in recreational hunting, game control and target shooting. For these purposes we require additional firearms.

Putting a cap on the number of firearms a person can own does not do anything to prevent criminal, terrorist or misuse of firearms. Increased sentences are required by the courts to stamp out the misuse of firearms by criminals. Since the relaxation of the Wildlife Laws applied to the control of fallow deer we have experienced more armed trespass and firearm misuse from adjoining properties in our area. Reporting these offenses is a total waste of time because there is very little Police activity in our area and certainly no Wildlife Ranger's any more. If what occurs here on a daily basis was in one of the cities it would be six o'clock news every night.

We totally agree that only Australian citizens should be able to be issued with a firearm licence. We don't agree that the licensed firearm owner's should be responsible for the failures of administrative procedures in other States or Territories and the knee jerk reaction from the Federal Government blaming licensed firearm owners who seem to be the most persecuted people in the country. It should also be noted there are many other ways that people can be murdered in mass than using firearms.

It is simply not good enough that law abiding farmers and firearm owners are scapegoats for what occurred at Bondi.

A firearm is an essential tool of trade in our operation.

[REDACTED]

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 17 July 2026 9:55 AM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Antique firearm (owner)

[REDACTED]

To whom it may concern,

I am currently the owner of an antique firearm to which i am currently registering.

I have a concern as owing this firearm the legislation has changed my circumstances significately.

When i wish to dispose of this firearm i stand to lose a large amount of money as i purchased this product for investment purposes.

I am sending this email as through as changes that have happened beyond my control it leaves me in the position of great loss financialy.

I am asking that I would like to seek either compensation or similar as to compensate me for my loss.

Thamkyou for your attention to this matter.

[REDACTED]

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 9 July 2026 10:20 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Proposed firearms buyback

- [REDACTED]
1. The buyback will cost millions, its cost/benefit to the taxpayer will be minimal, and the money can be better spent.
 2. Instead, existing laws should be better enforced. Every other week, western suburbs of Sydney are sprayed with bullets from unlicensed firearms.
 3. A person with one firearm is just as dangerous as a person with 100. Ownership of multiple firearms has never been a problem in any jurisdiction until a Greens politician got a cheap headline by appealing to emotion not fact. This proposal is in fact a breach of faith because owners registered their firearms in good faith. "Now we know you have them, we are going to confiscate them".
 4. A future Akram will still be allowed to possess six firearms under the proposed legislation. He legally owned six, but only used ONE.
 5. A straightpull action is not more dangerous than a conventional bolt action rifle. In WW1 there were the Austrian Mannlicher, the Swiss Schmit Rubin and the Canadian Ross straightpull rifles, but other countries retained the conventional bolt action even until WW2.
The British army of 1914 trained its Expeditionary Force to fire fifteen aimed shots per minute.
 6. A technical subject should receive expert legislation. It would be totally ridiculous for 'one size fits all' legislation to ban single shot straight pull rifles. There is also a very good reason why 20th century armies did not use pump action rifles whose tube magazines took a long time to reload.
 7. This is a waste of Police resources as well as money. Some jurisdictions are inundated at present by spouses and siblings registering six firearms each from a large family collection. Is it a desirable outcome to have five registered owners with six firearms instead of one with 30?

To summarise: the proposed legislation is a total waste of taxpayer money and is a kneejerk reaction, in order to be seen to be doing something.

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 7 July 2026 10:42 AM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Feedback on the Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026

[REDACTED]

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to provide feedback on the proposed Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026. I feel compelled to express my concerns regarding many of the proposed changes.

Firstly, I support the proposed mandatory custodial penalties for firearm theft and possession of stolen firearms. Individuals who deliberately steal firearms or knowingly possess stolen firearms place the wider community and legitimate firearms owners at risk, and strong penalties are appropriate.

I also support the proposal requiring firearms licence holders to be Australian citizens. Firearms ownership is a significant responsibility, and I believe Australian citizenship reflects an appropriate level of commitment and accountability to our country and its laws.

However, I respectfully disagree with the majority of the remaining proposed amendments.

The proposed reclassification of straight-pull, button-release and lever-release firearms would unfairly impact thousands of responsible, law-abiding licence holders who have complied with every legal requirement. These firearms have been owned safely and responsibly for years by recreational shooters, hunters, farmers and sporting shooters. Restricting access to them appears to target compliant licence holders rather than those who misuse firearms illegally.

I am also concerned about the additional administrative requirements proposed throughout the Bill. Responsible firearms owners already operate under one of the strictest regulatory systems in Australia. They undergo background checks, licence renewals, secure storage inspections and must demonstrate genuine reasons for firearm ownership. Introducing further restrictions and obligations on those who already comply with the law does little to address criminal firearm activity.

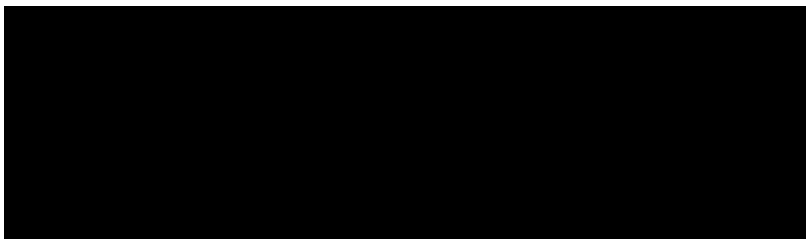
Criminals do not obtain firearms through lawful licensing processes, nor do they comply with firearms legislation. As such, increasing restrictions on licensed owners is unlikely to reduce firearm-related crime. Instead, I believe resources should continue to focus on disrupting illegal firearm trafficking, targeting organised crime, and enforcing existing laws against those who deliberately offend.

Tasmania has a strong culture of responsible firearm ownership. The overwhelming majority of licence holders take safety, training and secure storage extremely seriously. Many use firearms for legitimate purposes including farming, pest management, hunting, competitive target shooting and collecting. These individuals should not be further burdened by legislative changes that provide little demonstrated public safety benefit.

I respectfully ask the Government and Members of Parliament to reconsider the proposed restrictions affecting lawful licence holders. Future reforms should be evidence-based,

proportionate and developed in genuine consultation with Tasmania's licensed firearms community. I believe legislation should focus on those who commit firearm offences rather than imposing additional restrictions on people who have consistently demonstrated responsible and lawful firearm ownership.

Thank you for providing the opportunity to participate in this consultation. I appreciate your consideration of my views and hope the concerns of responsible firearms licence holders are given careful consideration before these amendments are finalised.



Submissions.Strategy.Support

From:

Sent:

Monday, 6 July 2026 9:20 PM

To:

Subject:

Firearms amendment bill consultation

Hi,

I am writing to provide my honest opinion on the proposed law changes. As an everyday Tasmanian with a common-sense view, I believe the points below reflect the views of the vast majority of responsible firearm owners and the broader Tasmanian community.

I have responded to each point 1–21 in the order presented in the Tasmania Police consultation information sheet:

1. Moving straight-pull and button-release actions to Category C is a poor rule change. Using the tragic events at Bondi as justification is misguided. While the incident was devastating, this change punishes law-abiding Tasmanians. Primary producers can already legally purchase self-loading firearms, so it is unclear why they would choose straight-pull or button-release options. Furthermore, landowners rarely have the time to conduct pest control themselves — that role largely falls to recreational hunters, for whom these types of firearms are particularly useful.
2. This change should have been in place from the beginning. It does not make sense that someone from anywhere in the world can arrive on a visa and immediately apply for a firearms licence when Australian citizens cannot easily do the same overseas.
3. This is really just a wording change. Responsible firearm owners would not lend their firearms to others who would then pass them on irresponsibly.
4. Again, this appears to be mostly a definition change. Responsible owners already ensure that anyone they lend a firearm to meets the strict requirements of our current laws.
5. This is only a definition change and should not have a major impact.
6. I do not fully understand the intent of this change. A firearm is a complete system of working parts that must function together safely. An individual part on its own cannot operate as a firearm.
7. Reducing the timeframe from 14 days to 24 hours on either side is unreasonable. Many everyday Tasmanians cannot easily take time off work or rearrange their schedules to attend Service Tasmania during business hours to lodge paperwork.
8. I hold the same view as point 7.

9. I do not understand why compliant businesses and premises are being targeted. If something is not broken, it should not be fixed.

10. A 7-day notification period is reasonable. Moving interstate is a significant decision that requires planning, so this timeframe should be manageable.

11. Same as point 10.

12. This is fair in principle, but it seems unnecessary for police to inquire about my father's firearms simply because they are stored in the same safe. His firearms are his own business.

13–16. These are positive changes. They may make people think twice before stealing firearms or committing crimes with them.

17. This should have been the case from the beginning.

18. Once again, this penalises law-abiding owners. It is unclear what benefit this change would actually deliver.

19. I believe this change is fair.

20. This is a good change and should make criminals think twice.

21. I do not fully understand this one, but if it makes life easier for licensed dealers then it is a positive step.

I strongly believe that most Tasmanians — and indeed most Australians — would agree with these views.

Additionally, although it is not listed in the proposed changes, I must raise my strong concern about any potential limit on the number of firearms a person can own. Each firearm serves a specific purpose, and if a law-abiding citizen wants to spend their own money on items they are passionate about, that should not be restricted.

Thank you for taking the time to read my submission.

