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Subject: Submission on the Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026

I appreciate the opportunity to provide a submission on the proposed Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026.

I am a Tasmanian citizen, Veteran and a long-standing, law-abiding firearms licence holder. I hold a standard firearms licence for Categories A 127, B127, C7 and H17, as well as a Museum Firearms Licence covering Categories A8, B8, C8, D8 and H8. Throughout my time as a licence holder, I have complied with all legislative requirements relating to licensing, secure storage, transport and the responsible use of firearms. Redacted

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I support legislation that improves public safety and targets the criminal misuse of firearms. Strong action against firearm theft, illicit trafficking and unlawful possession is appropriate and necessary. Responsible firearms owners have every interest in ensuring firearms remain in the hands of people who are properly licensed and subject to appropriate oversight.

My primary concern with the Bill is the proposed reclassification of straight-pull shotguns. I lawfully own a straight-pull shotgun that was acquired, registered and used in accordance with existing legislation. It has never presented any issue from a public safety perspective, nor has my ownership of it resulted in any concerns from Tasmania Police.

The proposal appears to treat straight-pull shotguns as presenting a significantly greater risk than conventional manually operated firearms. However, I question whether sufficient evidence has been presented to demonstrate that these firearms have been disproportionately involved in criminal offending within Tasmania or that their reclassification will produce a measurable improvement in community safety.

Straight-pull firearms remain manually operated. They require a separate manual action between each shot and do not function as self-loading firearms. While they may offer ergonomic or practical advantages for legitimate users, their method of operation remains fundamentally different from semi-automatic firearms that have historically attracted tighter regulation.

Public confidence in firearms legislation is strengthened when restrictions are clearly supported by evidence. Where long-established, lawfully owned firearms are reclassified, it is important that the Government clearly demonstrates the necessity and proportionality of those changes.

I am also concerned about the impact on responsible licence holders who have acted entirely within the law. Many owners have made significant financial investments based on the licensing framework that existed at the time of purchase. They have complied with every condition imposed upon them, only to now face the possibility of surrendering valuable property through no fault of their own.

Should the Government proceed with reclassification, any compensation or buyback scheme should provide fair market value and recognise the genuine financial loss experienced by lawful owners. Compensation should not be based solely on depreciated values or arbitrary

schedules but should reflect the actual replacement value of affected firearms and associated equipment where appropriate.

As a Museum Firearms Licence holder, I also encourage the Government to consider the broader implications for the preservation of Tasmania's firearms heritage. Historical firearms collections contribute to the interpretation of military, agricultural, sporting and industrial history. Legislative amendments should ensure that legitimate collectors and museums are able to continue preserving historically significant firearms under appropriate regulatory oversight without creating unnecessary administrative burdens.

I support several other aspects of the Bill, including measures aimed at reducing firearm theft, improving information sharing through the National Firearms Register, and strengthening penalties for those who unlawfully possess or traffic firearms. These initiatives appropriately target criminal behaviour rather than the activities of licensed firearms owners and are more likely to produce meaningful improvements in public safety.

My concern is that some proposed amendments risk imposing significant costs and inconvenience on individuals who have consistently demonstrated responsible conduct while having limited impact on those who obtain firearms outside the legal licensing system. The greatest threats to public safety come from individuals who are prepared to break the law, whether through organised crime, illicit firearms trafficking or ideologically motivated violent extremism, including Islamist terrorism, as well as other forms of politically or religiously motivated violence. These individuals do not obtain firearms through the lawful licensing system or comply with firearms legislation. Legislative reform should therefore focus on disrupting criminal access to firearms, strengthening intelligence and law enforcement capabilities, and targeting those who present a genuine threat to community safety, rather than imposing additional restrictions on licensed firearm owners with a demonstrated history of compliance.

I respectfully ask that the Government reconsider the proposed reclassification of straight-pull shotguns unless compelling evidence can be provided demonstrating that the change is necessary and proportionate. At a minimum, any transition arrangements should include fair compensation, reasonable implementation timeframes and careful consideration of the impact on existing lawful owners and licensed collectors.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed legislation. I trust that all submissions received during this consultation will be given genuine consideration before the Bill proceeds to Parliament. I remain committed to the responsible, lawful ownership and preservation of firearms while supporting practical measures that genuinely enhance community safety by targeting criminal misuse rather than further restricting responsible, licensed firearms owners.

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

Submitted to: Strategy and Support, Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management, Tasmania

Submitted by Redacted Retired Army Officer, Police Officer

Date: 6 July 2026

Consultation Period: 3 July – 7 August 2026

Executive Summary

This submission provides a critical analysis of the *Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026* (the Bill), the accompanying Consultation Information Sheet and the Questions and Answers document released by the Tasmanian Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management (DPFEM) on 3 July 2026.

The submission assesses the legislative response to the Bondi Beach terrorist attack of 14 December 2025, evaluates whether proposed amendments are evidence-based and proportionate, identifies provisions considered overreach against lawful owners, and recommends targeted reforms directed at character-based disqualification rather than numerically arbitrary ownership restrictions.

The author submits this response as someone who has observed Australian firearms regulation since the Port Arthur massacre of 28 April 1996. As a police veteran of Port Arthur, he has written publicly on the distinction between illicit and licensed firearms as drivers of gun violence in Australia.

The central finding of this submission is while many provisions of the Bill are supported — particularly those advancing the National Firearms Register (NFR), reinforcing domestic violence order (DVO) provisions, strengthening penalties for stolen firearms and introducing meaningful controls on lending — the Bill fails in one significant respect in not adequately address the character-based disqualification framework required to identify and remove firearms from individuals who represent a genuine community risk. No numerical cap on lawful ownership would have prevented the Bondi attack. What would have made a material difference is a robust, intelligence-informed, character-based revocation framework. The Bill begins to move in this direction through its expanded "intelligence report or other information" standard in s.29(3)(e) but does not go nearly far enough. This submission argues strongly against ownership caps as an instrument of reactive policy, and equally strongly for a mandatory character-based assessment framework with legislative teeth.

What needs to be kept in mind is the number of 10,821. These are the number of days Australia has faced massacre free between the Port Arthur and Bondi tragedies. The current firearms laws have worked well for nearly three decades. However, it is noted that almost weekly, there are firearms incidents in Tasmania – with most involving illicit firearms.

Part I: Background and Legislative Context

The Regulatory Foundation

The *Firearms Act 1996* (Tasmania) was enacted in direct response to the Port Arthur massacre, forming part of the National Firearms Agreement reached on 10 May 1996 under the Howard Government. The NFA established mandatory licensing, background checks, storage requirements and bans on semi-automatic and automatic firearms. Over 650,000 firearms were surrendered nationally under the subsequent buyback. These measures produced measurable results: Australia's firearm death rate fell from 2.9 per 100,000 in 1996 to below 1 per 100,000 by 2018.

The regulatory premise of this framework — and of this Bill — is ownership and use of a firearm is a privilege, not a right. This premise follows, logically and legally the burden of proof rests with the applicant to satisfy the licensing authority of a person's fitness to hold a licence, not with the State to demonstrate unfitness. The critical implication of this principle, examined in detail below, is character-based disqualification tools already exist in the Tasmanian legislative framework; the problem is not legislative absence but operational underuse.

The Bondi Attack: The Intelligence Failure Is the Issue

On 14 December 2025, Sajid Akram and his son Naveed opened fire at Bondi Beach, killing fifteen people and wounding more than forty. Sajid Akram held a Category A/B recreational licence and legally owned six registered firearms. He had been known to ASIO. His licence application had encountered a delay of three years due to a bureaucratic error — not a security-based risk assessment. Video evidence shows the attackers using straight-pull bolt action rifles and a shotgun, firing in quick succession. The attack had been planned meticulously for months.

The relevant question for this submission is not how many firearms the attackers owned. It is why a person known to ASIO was able to maintain a current firearms licence without such intelligence being used to invoke the character-based disqualification provisions already available under s.29 of the *Firearms Act 1996*. The answer is a systemic failure in intelligence sharing and in the operational application of existing law — not a deficiency in the number of firearms a licensed owner may hold.

The Wieambilla Murders: Operational Lessons

The December 2022 Wieambilla murders, in which Constables Rachel McCrow and Matthew Arnold and civilian Alan Dare were killed in a planned ambush using high-powered rifles, demonstrated the same structural failure: the inability of law enforcement to maintain real-time situational awareness of firearm owners whose risk profile had changed. The perpetrators, Nathaniel and Gareth Train, had developed extreme ideological views but remained licensed. The coroner subsequently concluded their delusional disorder and extreme religious beliefs were not assessed as a firearms risk in time to prevent the attack.

Part II: The Case Against Ownership Caps

2.1 Caps Do Not Address the Demonstrated Problem

The Government has explicitly declined to adopt an ownership cap in this Bill. This submission supports this decision and submits the evidence-based arguments for it.

The ACIC conservatively estimates between 200,000 and 260,000 firearms currently exist in Australia's domestic illicit market, comprising approximately 190,000 longarms and 10,000 handguns. Over 90 per cent of firearms used in Australian homicides are unregistered, with their owners unlicensed. The almost nightly shootings in Sydney and Melbourne derive from illicit weapons associated with organised crime, drug trafficking and a legacy grey market of undeclared firearms from the 1996–97 buyback. A cap on licensed ownership addresses none of this.

Sajid Akram's case illustrates the failure mode precisely. He did not exploit a numerical gap in the law. He was a person of concern who fell through the gap between intelligence holdings and licensing administration. Had his licence been revoked under the existing fit and proper person framework when ASIO's concerns were first identified — or had the NFR been operational and integrated with national security databases — he may not have had access to any firearm at all, irrespective of how many he owned.

2.2 Caps Penalise the Wrong Cohort

Registered gun numbers have increased while overall household ownership has declined. This means a smaller group of collectors, competitive shooters, primary producers and sporting enthusiasts holds a larger number of individually registered, stored and accountable firearms. A numerical cap would disproportionately affect this identifiable, known, law-compliant cohort. Tasmania Police's past seizure

of over 40 firearms and 250 kilograms of ammunition — illustrating the enforcement potential of existing law — demonstrates the tools to address genuine risk already exist when properly applied.

Tasmania has the highest per capita rate of legal firearm ownership in Australia. In contrast, the State is also assessed as having the highest estimated rate of illicit firearms. The intersection requiring legislative attention is not the legal holders — it is the illicit market. Resources expended on administering a cap scheme and defending the inevitable judicial challenges to arbitrary numerical limits would be better deployed in enforcement operations targeting that market.

2.3 The ACT Cap Model Does Not Translate

The ACT Government's cap of five firearms for general licence holders — cited as a model in some reform commentary — is administratively straightforward in a small, predominantly urban jurisdiction. Tasmania is a predominantly rural state where primary producers, sporting shooters and collectors routinely hold multiple firearms for entirely legitimate and well-documented purposes. A flat numerical cap without robust occupational and sporting exemptions is inappropriate for this jurisdiction's demographics. Rather than adopting an arbitrary number, the legislative response should concentrate on the quality of the owner's character and the currency of their risk assessment — not the size of their collection.

Recommendation 1: The Government should maintain its position against ownership caps and clearly articulate this to Parliament on the evidence: that caps address a problem not demonstrated by the available data, penalise a law-compliant cohort, and divert resources from the demonstrated source of firearms violence — the illicit market.

Part III: Penalties for Breaching Licence Conditions by Lawful Owners

3.1 The Accountability Gap

The current and proposed penalty structure is heavily weighted toward offences committed by unlicensed persons or criminals. The penalties for breaches by licensed owners — whose obligations under the Act are substantial — are comparatively modest. An owner who fails to notify a change of storage address faces a fine, not imprisonment. An owner who lends to a person without verifying their licence faces a fine not exceeding 50 penalty units. Given the privileged status of firearm ownership and the demonstrated capacity of a legally held, properly registered firearm to be used in mass casualty violence, the disparity between the obligations imposed on licensed owners and the consequences for breaching those obligations warrants redress.

The principle advanced here is not arbitrary punitiveness toward lawful owners — it is proportionality. A licensed owner who has been granted a privilege by the State and then fails to discharge their obligations under their licence should face consequences commensurate with the potential harm the breach enables.

3.2 Proposed Penalty Enhancements for Licensed Owner Breaches

The following penalty enhancements are submitted for consideration:

Failure to notify change of storage address (s.46(bb)): The current and proposed Bill introduces a 24-hour notification obligation but the existing penalty is a fine. Failure to maintain accurate storage records directly undermines the NFR's real-time intelligence objective. A licensed owner who fails to notify a storage change should face an enhanced penalty of not less than 50 penalty units, with a new summary offence for persistent non-compliance attracting a period of licence suspension. Where failure to notify results in a firearm being unavailable for inspection by police, the penalty should escalate to 100 penalty units or imprisonment for up to 12 months.

Failure to produce a firearm for inspection (s.82A): The proposed Bill creates a new offence of failing to produce a firearm for inspection when requested by police, attracting a maximum fine of 20 penalty units. Twenty penalty units — approximately \$3,000 — for obstructing a police inspection of a registered firearm is manifestly inadequate. The penalty for this offence should be a minimum of 50 penalty units or imprisonment for up to 12 months, to reflect the seriousness of impeding the state's ability to verify the whereabouts of a registered weapon.

Unlawful lending or on-lending (s.121A): The proposed lending offences attract a maximum of 50 penalty units or up to 2 years' imprisonment. Where an unlawfully lent firearm is subsequently used in the commission of a criminal offence, the lender should face a mandatory minimum of 6 months' imprisonment as an accessory, regardless of whether they had knowledge of the intended use. This is consistent with the principle established in the *Criminal Code Act 1924* (Tas) on accessorial liability.

Failure to report loss, theft or change of possession: The current 7-day notification requirement for a lost or stolen firearm should be reduced to 24 hours, consistent with the notification standard adopted for address changes in s.46(ba) of the Bill. The penalty for non-compliance should be 100 penalty units or 2 years' imprisonment for a first offence, escalating to mandatory licence cancellation on a second breach.

Recommendation 2: The Bill should be amended to substantially increase penalties for licensed owner breaches of notification, inspection, storage and lending obligations, on the principled basis that the privilege of licensed ownership carries commensurate accountability, and the consequences of

non-compliance must reflect the potential harm enabled by any firearm being outside real-time regulatory oversight.

Part IV: The Character-Based Disqualification Framework — What the Bill Gets Right and Where It Falls Short

4.1 The Existing Framework: Sections 29, 51 and 53

The *Firearms Act 1996* already contains a layered character-based disqualification framework. Section 29 requires an applicant to be a "fit and proper person", and the Commissioner may refuse to grant a licence on the basis of a criminal history, DVOs, recognised restraint orders, or — critically — an "intelligence report or other information." Section 51 provides for cancellation of a licence where the holder has been convicted of certain offences, is subject to a DVO, or is otherwise not considered fit and proper. Section 53 provides for suspension pending investigation, including — under the Bill's amendments — on grounds of mental or physical health.

The Bill amends s.29(3)(e) to expand the information basis for refusal from "criminal intelligence report or other criminal information" to the broader "intelligence report or other information." This is a significant and supported amendment. It means the Commissioner may rely on non-criminal intelligence — including security intelligence, social media assessments, extremism-related information and behavioural indicators — in determining whether an applicant or existing holder is fit and proper.

4.2 What "Fit and Proper" Can Cover: The Western Australia Precedent

In September–October 2025, Western Australia Police conducted Operation Sovereign Shield: a five-day state-wide operation in which officers visited 70 addresses, seized 135 firearms and cancelled or suspended 44 firearms licences held by individuals identified as holding sovereign citizen ideologies. The operation was conducted entirely under the fit and proper person standard in WA's *Firearms Act 2024*, without any specific offence-based trigger. WA Police Commissioner Col Blanch stated: "*If you have made it very clear that you do not abide by the laws of Western Australia, set by the Parliament, then there is no way you can be a fit and proper person to hold a firearm.*"

This precedent is directly instructive for Tasmania. The fit and proper person standard — if actively and intelligently applied — is already broad enough to capture the following categories of licence holders who present a materially elevated risk:

- Persons identified as holding sovereign citizen ideologies, rejecting the legitimacy of Australian law and the authority of its institutions
- Persons identified as members of, or active participants in, proscribed National Socialist organisations under the *Criminal Code Act 1924* (Cth) or its Tasmanian equivalents
- Persons identified as accessing, sharing or possessing extremist material online, including material inciting violence against identified groups
- Persons whose social media activity, online conduct or associations demonstrate active radicalisation, ideological alignment with violent extremism, or expressed intent to use violence

4.3 The Combatting Antisemitism, Hate and Extremism (Firearms and Customs Laws) Act 2026

On 20 January 2026, the Commonwealth Parliament passed the *Combatting Antisemitism, Hate and Extremism (Firearms and Customs Laws) Act 2026* as part of a broader legislative package responding directly to the Bondi attack. The firearms schedules of this Act establish a national firearms buyback framework, strengthen background checking by enabling assessments to draw on defined national intelligence inputs including security and criminal intelligence assessments, tighten controls on the import of certain firearms and components, and create a new Commonwealth offence of using a carriage service to access or share instructions for manufacturing firearms or explosives.

The Tasmania Bill does not explicitly reference or align with the Commonwealth Act, nor does it include any mechanism requiring the Commissioner of Police to seek ASIO or AFP holdings as part of the licensing assessment process. The amended s.29(3)(e) standard — "intelligence report or other information" — will be operational only if there is a formal, legislated protocol for intelligence to flow from Commonwealth security agencies to Tasmania Police's firearms licensing function. Without such a protocol, the expanded standard is aspirational, not operational.

4.4 Gaps in Tasmania's Character-Based Framework

Gap 1 — No mandatory intelligence-seeking obligation: The Bill does not impose on the Commissioner a positive duty to seek relevant national security intelligence before granting or renewing a licence. The s.29(3)(e) standard permits the Commissioner to consider intelligence if received; it does not require the Commissioner to obtain it. This distinction is critical. In the Bondi case, ASIO holdings were not communicated to NSW Police's licensing function. A positive legislative duty to request and consider ASIO and AFP holdings at each licence grant and renewal would address this structural gap.

Gap 2 — No defined trigger for review of existing licences based on changed character: The Bill does not create a mechanism for proactive review of existing licences when new intelligence emerges regarding a holder's ideological alignment or risk profile. A trigger-based review power — analogous to the powers exercised by WA Police under Operation Sovereign Shield — would allow Tasmania Police to act on intelligence about existing licence holders without waiting for a licence renewal occasion.

Gap 3 — No defined character indicators for "fit and proper" assessment: The current framework leaves the fit and proper assessment entirely to the Commissioner's discretion. While discretion is appropriate, guidance in subordinate legislation or operational policies should be developed to specify indicators of character concern — including membership of or association with proscribed organisations, patterns of accessing violent extremist material online, expressed rejection of governmental authority and Australian law, and credible intelligence of radicalisation — as relevant considerations. This provides both operational clarity and legal protection for Commissioner decisions made on these grounds.

Gap 4 — Firearms Prohibition Orders do not currently extend to ideologically motivated risk: Section 130 of the *Firearms Act 1996*, as amended by this Bill, expands Firearms Prohibition Orders (FPOs) to cover firearm parts, ammunition and suppressors. However, the grounds for issuing an FPO are not expanded. Victoria's FPO scheme, by contrast, allows police to issue an FPO against any person over 14 years of age on the basis it is in the public interest to do so — without requiring prior conviction — and targets persons who do not intend to use firearms for lawful purposes and who pose a risk to public safety. NSW's scheme similarly requires no set criteria beyond a fit and proper assessment. Tasmania's FPO provisions are materially narrower and should be aligned with the Victorian model to permit intelligence-based FPOs against persons identified as extreme ideological risks, even absent a criminal conviction.

Part V: Detailed Legislative Analysis — Specific Provisions

5.1 Section 29(3)(e) — Intelligence Report Amendment

The amendment substituting "criminal intelligence report or other criminal information" with "intelligence report or other information" is the most significant character-based reform in the Bill and is strongly supported. This change enables the Commissioner to rely on security intelligence assessments, open-source intelligence about extremist associations, and behavioural and social

media indicators when assessing licence applications and renewals. It must be given teeth through the operational protocols recommended below.

Recommendation 3: The Bill should include a new subsection in s.29 or in a companion regulation requiring the Commissioner, in all licence applications and renewal assessments, to request and consider any available ASIO and AFP holdings relevant to the applicant, consistent with privacy and security classification frameworks.

5.2 Sections 51 and 53 — Cancellation and Suspension

The Bill's expansion of grounds for suspension to include mental or physical health grounds (s.53(2)(ab)) is supported. During any period of suspension, the holder is taken not to be the holder of the licence and is prohibited from possessing any firearm, parts or ammunition. This provision, if actively used in conjunction with intelligence about radicalisation or ideological concern, provides a practical interim mechanism for removing firearms from a person under investigation.

What is missing is a legislative trigger requiring the Commissioner to immediately suspend a licence when a formal national security assessment from ASIO or the AFP identifies the holder as a person of security concern. Currently, suspension is discretionary. Given the potential consequences of delay, an automatic suspension pending review — with a defined 28-day review period before cancellation — should be introduced for persons who are the subject of a formal national security assessment.

Recommendation 4: The Bill should amend s.53 to provide for mandatory immediate suspension of a firearms licence where the Commissioner receives a formal national security assessment from ASIO or the AFP identifying the licence holder as a person of security concern, with a defined 28-day review period before cancellation or restoration of the licence.

5.3 Section 130 — Firearms Prohibition Orders

The Bill extends FPOs to cover firearm parts, ammunition and suppressors, so a person subject to an FPO cannot lawfully possess any component of a functional firearm. This is supported. However, the grounds for making an FPO must be expanded.

Under the current Tasmanian framework, the grounds for issuing an FPO are not articulated in the primary legislation with sufficient particularity. The Bill does not address this. Victoria's experience under its FPO regime — which has been used to target organised crime networks and extremist-linked individuals — demonstrates the value of a broadly drawn public interest test. Western Australia's use of the fit and proper standard to revoke licences from 44 sovereign citizen-linked

individuals without a criminal conviction is a further demonstration of what is achievable when the legal framework is clearly articulated and actively enforced.

Recommendation 5: The Bill should amend s.130 to align with the Victorian model, explicitly providing an FPO may be issued against any person where the Commissioner is satisfied on reasonable grounds:

- the person poses a risk to public safety; or
- the person has demonstrated, through conduct, expression, association or online activity, an intention not to comply with the laws of Tasmania; or
- the person is a member of or actively associated with an organisation proscribed under Commonwealth or Tasmanian law.

A person subject to an FPO should be prohibited from entering licensed firearms premises, sporting ranges, and associated clubs — consistent with the Victorian model.

5.4 Reclassification of Straight Pull and Button/Lever Release Firearms

The reclassification of straight pull action firearms and button or lever release centre-fire rifles and shotguns from Category B to Category C is supported. The Bondi attackers' ability to fire in quick succession was attributed to the straight-pull bolt action of the rifles used. The reclassification narrows access to these firearms to primary production, animal population control, animal welfare and business or employment purposes — removing them from the recreational and sporting category.

Concern: The buyback scheme remains subject to ongoing negotiations with no confirmed federal funding or timeline. The *Combating Antisemitism, Hate and Extremism (Firearms and Customs Laws) Act 2026* establishes a national buyback framework and default buyback period from 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2027. The Tasmanian Government should confirm the status of its participation in this framework before the reclassification provisions are proclaimed.

Recommendation 6: The reclassification provisions should not be proclaimed until the buyback funding quantum, payment rates and commencement date are confirmed in writing between the Tasmanian and Commonwealth governments. A sunset clause should be included requiring buyback commencement within 12 months of the reclassification provisions' proclamation.

5.5 DVO Provisions

The amendment enabling the Commissioner to consider historical DVOs from other jurisdictions in determining fitness to hold a licence is strongly supported. The current gap — where a history of

multiple interstate DVOs is invisible to the Tasmanian Commissioner following the expiry of those orders — is inconsistent with the evidence on firearms access and intimate partner homicide risk. This reform is overdue and should proceed.

Recommendation 7: The Government should additionally consider whether a single DVO — rather than a pattern of multiple orders — should be sufficient to trigger a mandatory licence review, consistent with the position adopted by Western Australia under its *Firearms Act 2024*.

5.6 National Firearms Register Provisions

The Bill's NFR-related amendments are supported in full. The NFR will provide law enforcement with near real-time access to information on registered firearms, licences, permits and associated risk profiles across all jurisdictions. The licence and permit verification service, the restrictions on on-lending, the 24-hour notification requirements and the nominated storage location provisions collectively advance the NFR's core objective of maintaining an accurate, current national picture of lawful firearm ownership.

The NFR is not expected to be fully operational until mid-2028 – some three decades plus after it was first raised post Port Arthur. The Bill should include a reporting obligation requiring the Minister to table an annual progress report to Parliament on Tasmania's NFR implementation milestones and any identified gaps.

Recommendation 8: The Bill should include a reporting obligation requiring the Minister to table annual progress reports to Parliament on NFR implementation and the specific capabilities delivered in each reporting period.

5.7 Mandatory Sentencing Provisions

The introduction of mandatory minimum sentences of three months' imprisonment for possession of stolen firearms, stealing a firearm or firearm part and unlawful trafficking — effected through amendments to the *Sentencing Act 1997* — is supported with qualification. The Law Council of Australia has consistently and on sound grounds opposed mandatory minimum sentencing provisions as costly, undermining of judicial discretion, and lacking an evidence base for deterrence. The Canadian courts have invalidated comparable provisions on constitutional grounds. The Bill's inclusion of judicial exemption provisions for youth, mental impairment and circumstances of injustice mitigates this concern.

These provisions target criminal actors — thieves and traffickers — not lawful licence holders. The submission supports mandatory minimum sentences for criminal firearms offending while proposing,

as above, substantially increased penalties for lawful owner administrative breaches. These are contradictory positions as accountability must be scaled to both the privilege held and the harm enabled.

5.8 Mandatory Sentencing Not A Deterrent

However, the proposed **three-month mandatory minimum** in the Tasmanian Bill for possession of a stolen firearm sits dramatically below the sentencing floors of every US jurisdiction examined and below the five-year mandatory minimum applied in England, Wales and Scotland for the most serious category of firearms possession. Even California's relatively moderate approach imposes **16 months to 3 years** for stolen firearm theft. The Illinois Class X aggravated possession of a stolen firearm carries a minimum of **6 years**. On this measure, the Tasmanian proposal — while politically significant as a first step — represents the most modest mandatory minimum of any comparable Western jurisdiction.

This proposed three-month mandatory minimum could be viewed as the State being weak on criminals who steal firearms while increasing penalties for licenced owners. This is an imbalance which wouldn't be supported across community expectations.

5.9 Magazine Capacity Limits

The proposed limits — 10 rounds for Category A rim-fire rifles and Category B centre-fire rifles, and 5 rounds for Category A shotguns with detachable magazines — are supported. The exemption for inbuilt tubular magazines is logical and should be retained.

6.0 Notification Inconsistency

The Consultation Information Sheet at item 11 states a firearms licence holder must notify Tasmania Police at least "7 days before" a change in personal particulars. The Q&A document refers to "24 hours prior to the move or name change but no later than 24 hours after." The operative Bill at s.46(ba) provides for a 24-hour notification standard for address changes, while s.57 (change in licence particulars) substitutes "at least 7 days before" for the previous "within 14 days after." These provisions may cover overlapping matters and should be harmonised before the Bill proceeds to Parliament.

Recommendation 9: The Government should resolve and publicly clarify the inconsistency between the 24-hour notification requirement under s.46(ba) and the 7-day notification requirement under s.57, and ensure both provisions are clearly explained to licence holders in updated consultation materials.

Part VI: The 3D-Printed Firearms and Ghost Gun Threat

Tasmania, alongside NSW, currently legislates criminal penalties for possessing digital blueprints for the manufacture of firearms on 3D printers or electronic milling machines, with a maximum penalty of 21 years' imprisonment under s.119A of the *Firearms Act 1996*. The Commonwealth *Combating Antisemitism, Hate and Extremism (Firearms and Customs Laws) Act 2026* introduces a further Commonwealth offence of using a carriage service to access or share manufacturing instructions for weapons. Australian police are reporting increasing seizures of 3D-printed privately manufactured firearms across all jurisdictions.

The Bill amends s.119A only to update terminology (removing "firearm sound" from references to suppressors). The ghost gun threat warrants a more substantial response: explicit extension of the blueprint prohibition to online storage and transmission of manufacturing instructions by Tasmanian-based persons, increased resourcing for Tasmania Police cyber capability to monitor and respond to this threat, and active promotion of the reporting mechanisms available to licensed gun owners who become aware of 3D-printing activity within their networks.

Recommendation 10: The Bill should include an amendment to s.119A explicitly extending the digital blueprint prohibition to online storage, transmission and access by Tasmanian-based persons, consistent with the Commonwealth offence created in January 2026, and should include a review mechanism to ensure the provision keeps pace with advances in 3D-printing technology.

Part VII: Summary of Recommendations

Recommendation	Summary
1	Maintain position against ownership caps on evidence base — articulate clearly to Parliament
2	Substantially increase penalties for licensed owner breaches of notification, inspection, storage and lending obligations
3	Impose a mandatory duty on the Commissioner to seek and consider ASIO/AFP holdings in all licence applications and renewals
4	Amend s.53 to provide mandatory automatic licence suspension where a formal national security assessment identifies the holder as a person of security concern
5	Expand FPO grounds under s.130 to include ideological risk, association with proscribed organisations and anti-government extremist conduct — aligned with Victorian model

6	Confirm federal buyback funding before proclaiming reclassification provisions; include 12-month sunset clause
7	Consider whether a single DVO should trigger mandatory licence review
8	Include annual ministerial reporting obligation on NFR implementation milestones
9	Resolve and clarify inconsistency between s.46 and s.57 notification requirements
10	Extend s.119A digital blueprint prohibition to online storage, transmission and access

Part VIII: Conclusion

The *Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026* represents a partial and broadly well-directed response to systemic weaknesses in Tasmania's firearms regulatory framework. The NFR provisions, the DVO reforms, the lending controls, the magazine capacity limits and the penalties for stolen firearms theft are all supported and should proceed.

The argument for ownership caps rests on a political premise — visible action following a visible event — rather than on evidence. The Bondi attack was perpetrated by a person of security concern who was known to ASIO and who held a valid licence because no operational mechanism existed to communicate that concern to the licensing authority and trigger a review of his fitness to hold. An ownership cap would not have prevented the attack. A functioning, intelligence-informed, character-based revocation framework might well have.

The proposal advanced in this submission is community safety is better served by a rigorous, intelligence-driven character assessment framework — drawing on the expanded "intelligence report or other information" standard newly introduced by s.29(3)(e) of this Bill, the mandatory suspension provisions proposed above, an expanded FPO scheme modelled on Victoria, and the WA precedent of using the fit and proper standard to actively remove firearms from sovereign citizens and other extremist-aligned licence holders — than by arbitrary numerical limits on a law-compliant cohort.

Licensed firearm owners are not the problem. Owners who breach their obligations should face consequences commensurate with the privilege they hold and the harm their breach enables. Owners who become a security risk through radicalisation, extremist association or expressed rejection of Australian law should be subject to immediate administrative action under a clearly articulated character-based framework. These are the legislative priorities this Bill should enshrine.

Three decades after Port Arthur, the framework governing lawful ownership is largely sound. The task now is to close the intelligence gap, sharpen the character-based tools already available in the law, and redirect enforcement energy toward the illicit market and the ideologically dangerous — not toward the collection sizes of licensed competitors, hunters and primary producers.

Endnotes

1. Tasmania, *Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026*, Consultation Draft, 2 July 2026 (Office of Parliamentary Counsel, Hobart).
2. Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management (Tasmania), *Consultation Information Sheet: Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026*, July 2026.
3. Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management (Tasmania), *Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026: Questions and Answers*, July 2026.
4. Redacted Illicit weapons, not legal owners, drive Australia's gun crime crisis', unpublished commentary, 2026.
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Dear Recipient

This proposed Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026, dressed up as "community safety" after the tragic Bondi Beach attack, is a textbook case of emotional manipulation masquerading as policy. It exploits a horrific terrorist incident to push a national registry, reclassifications, citizenship hurdles, and yet another buyback – all while ignoring the facts, punishing law-abiding citizens, and failing to address real threats. Let's cut through the spin with cold, hard reality.

1. The Bondi Attack Was Terrorism, Not a "Gun Problem" – This Bill Misdirects Blame

The December 2025 Bondi Beach shooting was a targeted antisemitic terrorist attack by two individuals – Sajid Akram and his son Naveed Akram – inspired by Islamic State ideology. It was Australia's worst mass shooting in decades. Intelligence failures, watchlist lapses, and radicalization were central, not a paperwork shortfall in some national database.

The perpetrators were immigrants (or from an immigrant background) with clear ties to extremist ideology. This wasn't random "gun violence" from licensed Australian owners – it was imported extremism enabled by flawed immigration screening, integration failures, and porous borders. Yet this bill uses the tragedy to justify broader controls on *legal*, long-standing Australian firearm owners. This is classic misdirection: when governments can't (or won't) tackle illegal firearms, terrorism vetting, or border security effectively, they turn on the compliant majority. Law-abiding Australians who pass rigorous checks, store firearms securely, and use them for sport, hunting, or pest control are now collateral in a narrative that equates responsible ownership with public danger. It's emotionally manipulative – "think of the victims!" – but factually bankrupt. Criminals, terrorists, and those who slip through lax borders don't register their guns. They never have.

2. Immigration, Borders, and Failed Integration: The Real Root Causes We Must Confront

We cannot honestly discuss Bondi without acknowledging the uncomfortable truth: mass immigration from regions with high rates of Islamist extremism has imported security risks that Australian gun laws were never designed to handle. The Akram duo's attack highlights how inadequate border vetting, overwhelmed intelligence services, and multicultural policies that prioritize diversity over assimilation have created vulnerabilities. Watchlist removals, despite red flags, allowed this horror.

Instead of endless gun tweaks that disarm citizens, we should urgently reconsider our borders: stricter immigration screening for ideological compatibility, enhanced deportation for extremism risks, and pausing unchecked inflows until integration catches up. Pretending the problem is "too many registered rifles in rural sheds" while ignoring who is actually committing these ideologically driven atrocities is not just naive – it's dangerously conniving. It distracts from policy failures in migration that endanger everyone, including the Jewish community targeted at Bondi. Law-abiding immigrants who integrate fully have nothing to fear, but the data on certain source countries demands honesty, not virtue-signaling.

This bill sidesteps these core issues entirely, opting instead to erode the rights of native and established Australians. That's not safety – that's scapegoating the productive, responsible population to avoid hard conversations on borders and culture.

3. National Registers Don't Stop Crime – History Proves It

Australia already has some of the world's strictest firearms laws post-1996 National Firearms Agreement. That massive buyback and registration push was sold as a safety panacea. What happened? Firearm homicides and suicides declined (as they did in many countries without such measures), but overall violent crime trends didn't transform as promised. Armed robberies and certain crime categories persisted or rose in periods afterward. Multiple analyses show the vaunted reductions were driven more by broader societal factors than registries alone.

A centralized National Firearms Register (NFR) promises "near real-time" data for police. Sounds impressive – until you realize it creates a single point of failure and a tempting target for hackers or insiders. Criminal networks – often tied to imported organized crime – already thrive on illicit markets fed by thefts and smuggling; a shiny new database doesn't magically dry those up. It burdens legitimate owners with bureaucracy while diverting police resources from actual enforcement. Delays in licensing, data cleansing mandates, and massive costs (hundreds of millions) are already hitting states – all for marginal gains against black-market guns.

This isn't "strengthening safety." It's creating an illusion of control that erodes trust and freedoms without measurable results against determined criminals, terrorists, or those exploiting weak borders.

4. Reclassifications, Citizenship Rules, and Buybacks: Confiscation by Stealth

The bill's reclassification and citizenship provisions will force buybacks, tied to funding negotiations with the federal government. This targets lawfully acquired property – your investments in sporting rifles, heirlooms, or working tools – under the guise of "miscellaneous" tweaks. Once again, the pattern repeats: punish the many for the sins of the few, while the real threats from poorly vetted arrivals continue.

Citizenship-linked restrictions? In a nation now grappling with imported extremism, this risks further complicating things rather than focusing on behavioral red flags, intelligence, and border integrity. Law-abiding citizens – regardless of background – who meet every existing test shouldn't lose rights because politicians need a visible "win" that avoids border accountability. Buybacks sound compassionate but are expensive theater: billions spent historically with guns flowing back into circulation or to criminals over time. It's not prevention; it's redistribution of rights from the responsible to the state.

5. The Real Agenda: Control, Not Safety

Dig deeper, and this is about centralizing power while dodging accountability on immigration. A national register enables future expansions – tracking, restrictions, confiscations at the stroke of policy. It treats every licensed owner as a potential suspect, inverting the presumption of innocence. Meanwhile, illegal firearms (the ones used in most crimes) and the cultural/ideological imports driving terrorism remain the glaring holes.

Focus on real solutions: better vetting and enforcement against illegal activity, cracking down on smuggling, mental health/intervention for threats, fixing intelligence lapses exposed by Bondi, *and* serious border reconsideration. That would save lives without eroding the rights of millions who pose zero risk.

The consultation materials gloss over these trade-offs with Q&As and info sheets. Don't be fooled: this is incremental disarmament sold as common sense, paired with willful blindness on migration. Governments worldwide have used crises to expand registries that later justify broader seizures – all while societies fracture under unchecked inflows. Australia risks repeating it.

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For your consideration,

In relation to Section 19 and the proposed requirement to notify the Commissioner when a firearm is stored at a location other than the licensee's residential address for more than 24 hours, further clarification is required regarding the distinction between the location of the firearm and the location of the licensed owner.

For example, if a licensed firearm owner travels away from their residential address while their firearm remains securely stored at the registered storage location, it is unclear whether any notification would be required under the proposed provisions.

Similarly, clarification is needed for situations where firearms are temporarily stored at another compliant location while undertaking lawful activities, such as hunting, clay target shooting, target shooting competitions, or other approved firearm-related events. Where a firearm is securely stored in accordance with legislative requirements—for example, in the compliant safe of another licensed firearms owner—it is unclear whether notification would be required if the storage exceeds 24 hours, either within Tasmania or while travelling interstate.

Further guidance is also required for firearms transported during travel. For example, when a firearm remains securely stored in a locked vehicle and the owner temporarily leaves the vehicle to stay overnight in accommodation, such as a hotel or motel that does not provide compliant firearm storage facilities, it is unclear how the notification requirements would apply. This may be particularly relevant for interstate travel, extended hunting trips, or shooting competitions.

Consideration should be given to providing clearer wording within the Act, including examples of acceptable storage and travel scenarios, to ensure that lawful firearms owners can readily understand and comply with their obligations. Clear provisions for temporary storage at compliant locations, travel-related activities, and the nomination of alternative storage locations would help avoid unintended non-compliance by individuals who are otherwise acting responsibly and in accordance with safe storage requirements.

It is recommended that the proposed 24-hour notification requirement be amended to apply only to permanent or long-term changes in firearm storage locations. The current wording may unintentionally capture ordinary and lawful activities such as hunting trips, interstate travel, attendance at shooting competitions, temporary storage with another licensed firearms owner, or circumstances where the licence holder is travelling but the firearms remain securely stored at the registered address. A practical approach would be to require

notification only where a firearm is relocated on a permanent basis or for an extended period, while exempting temporary movements where storage continues to comply with legislative requirements. This would maintain regulatory oversight without creating an unnecessary administrative burden on compliant firearms owners.

This approach preserves Police Tasmania's ability to identify where firearms are generally stored while avoiding the need for notifications every time a person goes hunting, attends a competition, travels interstate, or temporarily stores firearms at another compliant location.

Proposed amendment Section 46(bb)

(bb) if a firearm is to be stored at an address other than the residential address of the licensee on a permanent basis, or for a continuous period exceeding 90 days, the licensee must notify the Commissioner in an approved form of the change in location –

(i) at least 24 hours before that change occurs; or

(ii) if the change occurs without 24 hours' notice, as soon as practicable, and no later than 7 days after that change occurs;

(bbA) Subsection (bb) does not apply where a firearm is temporarily stored at another location, provided that –

(i) the firearm is stored in accordance with the storage requirements of this Act; and

(ii) the temporary storage is for a lawful purpose, including hunting, competition shooting, recreational shooting, repair, maintenance, travel, attendance at an approved range or event, or temporary storage with another person lawfully authorised to possess firearms; and

(iii) the period of temporary storage does not exceed 90 days.

(bbB) For the avoidance of doubt, a licensee is not required to notify the Commissioner merely because the licensee is temporarily absent from their residential address while firearms remain stored at the nominated storage location.

(bbC) A licensee may nominate one or more approved storage locations for firearms held under the licence and is not required to notify the Commissioner each time a firearm is moved between those nominated storage locations.

The proposed arrangements allowing a person relocating to Tasmania to rely on an interstate firearms licence for a period of only 7 days while applying for a Tasmanian

firearms licence may not be realistic in many circumstances. Under the proposed amendments, a person intending to reside in Tasmania may possess firearms under their interstate licence for a period of 7 days after receiving confirmation from the Commissioner, provided they apply for a Tasmanian licence within that period.

In practice, a person relocating to Tasmania may require significantly longer than 7 days to secure accommodation, establish compliant firearms storage, transfer personal belongings, arrange employment, and compile the supporting documentation needed to lodge a firearms licence application. These activities are often undertaken concurrently during a relocation and may not be achievable within a one-week timeframe.

The current processing environment further highlights this concern. Service Tasmania advises that firearms licence applications are presently experiencing delays and may take up to four months to be processed. While the Bill allows a person to continue possessing firearms after the initial 7-day period if an application has been lodged and remains undetermined, the practical challenge is whether a new resident can reasonably establish compliant storage arrangements and submit a complete application within the first 7 days of arriving in Tasmania.

There may also be situations where applicants are unable to lodge a complete application within 7 days due to delays in obtaining supporting documentation, accessing approved firearms safety training pathways, finalising residential arrangements, or meeting storage inspection and compliance requirements. These matters are often outside the applicant's direct control.

Consideration should therefore be given to extending the transitional period to 28, 60 or 90 days, or alternatively allowing a corresponding interstate licence to remain valid for a reasonable period following relocation, provided the holder continues to meet all legislative requirements and applies for a Tasmanian licence within the prescribed timeframe.

A longer transition period would better reflect the practical realities of interstate relocation while maintaining appropriate regulatory oversight and ensuring otherwise compliant firearms owners are not placed at risk of unintentionally breaching the Act during the relocation process.

It is recommended that the proposed 7-day transitional period be extended to 90 days. A person relocating to Tasmania is often required to secure accommodation, establish compliant firearms storage, transfer personal possessions, arrange employment, obtain supporting documentation and complete licensing

requirements. Requiring these matters to be completed within seven days may be impractical and could create an unnecessary risk of non-compliance for otherwise lawful firearms owners. A 90-day transition period would provide a more realistic timeframe while maintaining appropriate regulatory oversight and ensuring applicants are subject to all Tasmanian storage, possession and transport requirements immediately upon arrival. The proposed amendment would also align more closely with current firearm licence processing timeframes, which are publicly advised as being up to four months.

Proposed amendment Section 56

56(2) A firearms licence taken to be held by a person under subsection (1) is taken to be a firearms licence under this Act –

(a) that is equivalent to the firearms licence held by the person in the other State or Territory; and

(b) that remains in force for a period of 90 days from –

(i) the date the person receives the written confirmation of the Commissioner under subsection (1)(b); or

(ii) such later date as is specified in the written confirmation.

(2A) A person relying on a licence under subsection (2) must apply for a firearms licence under this Act within the 90-day period specified in subsection (2)(b).

(2B) During the period specified in subsection (2)(b), the person must comply with all requirements of this Act relating to the possession, use, transport and storage of firearms.

(3) Despite subsection (2)(b), a firearms licence taken to be held by a person under subsection (1) remains in force after the expiration of the 90-day period if –

(a) the person has applied for a firearms licence under this Act within the period specified in subsection (2)(b); and

(b) the application has not been determined, refused or withdrawn.

(3A) For the avoidance of doubt, a person who is taken to hold a firearms licence under subsection (1) is not guilty of an offence under section 9 in respect of a firearm held by the person under that licence while the licence remains in force under this section.

Specialist Mechanical Engineer

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.

Yours faithfully,

Redacted

Redacted

Submission on the Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026.

I have previously written twice to the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management seeking clarification regarding reports that Tasmania Police Commissioner Donna Adams recommended the Government consider limits on the number of firearms an individual may own, and asking why those limits were ultimately not adopted. As I have not received a response to either correspondence, I welcome the opportunity to raise the issue through the formal consultation process.

Having reviewed both the draft Bill and the accompanying Consultation Information Sheet, I note that the proposed reforms make numerous significant changes to Tasmania's firearms laws. These include tighter firearm classifications, new storage and notification requirements, magazine capacity limits, stronger offences relating to stolen firearms, and reforms supporting the implementation of the National Firearms Register. The stated objective throughout these reforms is to improve public safety and strengthen Tasmania's firearms regulatory framework.

However, one notable omission is the absence of any proposal, discussion or explanation regarding limits on the number of firearms that may be owned by an individual licence holder.

If public reporting is correct that Tasmania Police recommended the Government consider ownership caps, it would be valuable for the consultation process to explain why that recommendation was not adopted. Public consultation should not only outline the reforms being proposed but also provide sufficient information to allow the community to understand the reasoning behind significant policy decisions that have been made during the development of the legislation.

The consultation material explains the rationale for many individual amendments, yet it provides no explanation as to why unlimited firearm ownership remains permissible under the proposed legislative framework. This is particularly noteworthy given that the Bill introduces a number of additional regulatory measures specifically aimed at reducing risks associated with firearm theft, diversion, unlawful possession and public safety.

I recognise that many Tasmanians have entirely legitimate reasons for owning firearms, including primary production, pest management, recreational hunting, collecting and

competitive shooting. My submission is not intended to question those lawful activities or the continued ability of licensed individuals to possess firearms for genuine reasons.

Rather, I question whether there should be any legislative limit on the accumulation of firearms by a single individual, or at the very least whether the Government should clearly explain why it has concluded that no such limit is necessary.

The Bill already recognises that firearm regulation should be proportionate to risk. It places restrictions on magazine capacities, reclassifies certain firearms into more restrictive licence categories, strengthens storage and reporting obligations, and increases penalties for firearm-related offending. These measures acknowledge that reducing opportunities for misuse, theft and diversion is an important public safety objective.

Given those objectives, it seems reasonable to ask whether unlimited accumulation of firearms by a single licence holder is consistent with the broader intent of the reforms. If the Government has concluded that ownership limits would not improve public safety, I believe that conclusion should be explained as part of the consultation process and supported by the evidence or policy analysis upon which it was based.

Accordingly, I encourage the Government to either:

- include consideration of firearm ownership limits as part of this legislative reform process; or
- publish the policy reasoning and evidence supporting its decision not to introduce ownership caps.

Tasmania has historically played an important role in Australia's firearms reforms. For that reason, I believe the community should have the opportunity to understand the policy basis for decisions on significant issues such as this, particularly where they relate directly to public safety.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Yours faithfully,

Redacted

To whom it may concern,

I believe the proposed bill does not go far enough to address the number of firearms in the community. While recognising the need for firearms for certain citizens in the community, such as farmers, I think changes should be made to limit the firearms that an individual can own to what is strictly necessary.

I do not think there is justification for one person to own more than three or four firearms of various types. For example, a farmer may require a shotgun for controlling rabbits, a small calibre rifle for rabbits or wallabies etc, and perhaps a larger calibre rifle for controlling deer or euthanising cattle. Anything in excess of this, in my opinion, only increases the number of firearms in the community with the associated risk of theft and subsequent nefarious use by criminals.

The suggested increasing of penalties for firearm theft is justified, but ultimately unlikely to reduce the risk of theft. Put simply, the more guns that are available to be stolen, the more that will be stolen, and for this reason the overall number owned by individuals should be restricted.

Kind Regards,

Redacted

Redacted

Why do lever firearms have to be in category c? If this passes do we have to hand them in?

Redacted

Date: 6 July 2026

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission on the proposed *Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026*.

I support the Government's objective of improving public safety while ensuring Tasmania maintains an effective, practical and proportionate firearms regulatory framework.

The devastating consequences of firearm misuse demonstrate the need for legislation that assists police in preventing criminal access to firearms while preserving the rights and responsibilities of lawful firearm owners who comply with existing licensing requirements.

In my view, the legislation will be most effective when it is evidence-based, transparent, proportionate and capable of achieving measurable improvements in community safety.

This submission addresses the principal reforms outlined within the Consultation Information Sheet. I support the Government's objective of strengthening community safety and improving the capacity of Tasmania Police to prevent firearm crime.

The National Firearms Register has the potential to become a valuable policing tool provided that it is accurate, secure and appropriately governed.

At the same time, legislative amendments should remain evidence-based, proportionate and transparent.

Accordingly, I recommend that Parliament:

1. Proceed with implementation of the National Firearms Register with strong privacy and cybersecurity safeguards.
2. Ensure firearm reclassification decisions are supported by evidence.
3. Provide fair compensation for affected firearm owners from the Federal Government
4. Tighten the citizenship provisions particularly if the evidence demonstrates a measurable public safety benefit.
5. Continue strengthening intelligence sharing relating to domestic violence, organised crime and firearm trafficking.
6. Undertake an independent statutory review of the legislation within three years of commencement.

Thank you for considering this submission.

Kind regards

Redacted

Hi,

My name is **Redacted** am 24 years old and live on the northwest coast of Tasmania.

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.

Regards,

Redacted

Redacted

Current Tasmanian Firearms Licence Holder

I am writing to provide feedback on the proposed Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026 as a current Tasmanian firearms licence holder. Like many licensed firearm owners across the state, I take my legal obligations seriously and have always complied with the requirements placed upon me. For this reason, I wish to express my concerns regarding several of the proposed amendments.

I support the introduction of mandatory custodial sentences for those convicted of stealing firearms or knowingly possessing stolen firearms. Firearm theft poses a significant risk to the community, and individuals who intentionally engage in this type of offending should face serious consequences.

I also support the proposal requiring firearms licence holders to be Australian citizens. Holding a firearms licence is a privilege that comes with considerable responsibility, and I believe Australian citizenship is an appropriate requirement.

That said, I do not support many of the other proposed changes.

I am particularly concerned about the proposal to reclassify straight-pull, button-release and lever-release firearms. These firearms are owned by many responsible Tasmanians who have obtained them legally, stored them securely and used them safely for legitimate purposes such as hunting, pest control, farming and target shooting. Restricting access to these firearms places additional burdens on law-abiding licence holders without clearly addressing the source of illegal firearm crime.

I am also concerned that further administrative requirements are being introduced for people who already comply with extensive licensing, storage and regulatory obligations. Tasmania already has a comprehensive firearms licensing system, and responsible licence holders regularly demonstrate that they are willing to meet these standards. Adding more restrictions to compliant owners is unlikely to have a meaningful impact on criminal offending.

Those who commit firearm offences do not usually obtain firearms through lawful channels, nor do they follow firearms legislation. In my view, efforts would be better directed towards preventing illegal firearm trafficking, targeting organised criminal activity and ensuring existing laws are effectively enforced against offenders.

Responsible firearm ownership has long been part of Tasmania's rural and sporting communities. The vast majority of licence holders are committed to safe firearm handling, secure storage and compliance with the law. I believe future reforms should recognise this and focus on evidence-based measures that target criminal behaviour rather than creating further restrictions for people who have consistently demonstrated they are responsible firearms owners.

I respectfully ask that the proposed amendments be reconsidered and that the views of Tasmania's licensed firearms community be given genuine consideration before any legislative changes are made.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback during this consultation process. I appreciate your time and consideration.

Yours faithfully,

Redacted

I would like to make two points -

1. A minimum sentence of three months seems to me to be too short and not a deterrent.
2. I strongly believe that there should be a cap on the number of firearms owned by individuals. Anyone wishing to exceed the cap should have to apply to do so with their application to be assessed by Tasmania Police.

Many thanks,

Redacted

Redacted

Hi

I believe the Genuine reasons 37 (1) (b) vermin control could be removed or amended. The vermin control act 2000 has been repealed. This leaves a gap for persons that would like to use a firearm for the euthanising of feral cats because there is no vermin act so feral cats are not classed as vermin. Could there be a option to allow for the euthanising of cats that aligns with the Cat Management Act 2009, Sec 17A (3)(a)(b) for a private land owner that is not a primary producer and is more than one kilometre from any structure or building used as a place of residence to destroy a cat.

That's my two cents worth.

Cheers Redacted

Redacted

Redacted

Changing the classifications make little to no sense or difference. The potential for unlawful use is the same, It is much better to stop them from getting into the wrong hands in the first place,

so

I do agree with harsher penalties in relation to firearms crimes and better screening of potential license holders, but refuse changes involving classifications and caps.

Regards

Redacted

Redacted

To whom it may concern

Firstly, I would like to thank Minister Ellis **Redacted** and all of the team supporting these new legislation changes. You have approached this task with calm, considered, intelligent and respectful consideration.

I have read and considered the proposed changes to the legislation and I wholeheartedly agree and support all of the amendments that have been put on the table.

Congratulations on all of the hard work done to bring us to this point so far.

Respectfully,

Redacted

There is NOTHING WRONG with the firearms laws in Tasmania the only problem with them is the so called authorities don't police them to the letter! For example my own terrible experience with my mentally ill DV Abuser father who on top of all that hides a large number of guns he refused to surrender like many after 1996, citing he is not Redacted herefore he should be allowed to have them, it's also perfectly fine for him to stalk , harass, threaten, character assassinate any of us as a desperate and narcissistic attempt to make us out to be the problem and the authorities let him do it time and time again.

I'd love to know from all those consulting that how is a person deemed fit and proper to have firearms legally let alone illegally who behaves in such a deranged manner? Is it normal and acceptable behavior for a man's wife to divorce him in 1992 no less and for him to then stalk his ex wife at every home and place of work ever since? He did the same to me and my partner we have moved several times. The threats of violence including with guns the threats of suicide that nobody will get him out of his house and what makes me most mad is he is but 1 of many of these kinds of cases that Police, the Statewide Mental Health Service and Politicians ignore. Redacted

Redacted at the time he met with us and he was disgusted, he went to the SMHS and told them to look at my father's case again and they told him no and where to go, let that sink in for a minute! After firearms services made changes pertaining to storage and security requirements from memory this was end of 2017/2018 my father refused to make the changes, he sighted the government was doing this as a revenue raising measure (try and comprehend that I never could) when they came to do the inspection they found he wasn't doing anything he was supposed to including a safe not bolted down, and a clothes basket of ammunition just sitting on his bedroom floor out on show for all to see, he was convicted over this, he messed firearms services around for over 12 months in regards to getting assessed for mental health concerns I even got roped into this but I wasn't playing his game I went and did my part and was cleared immediately. But I had firearms services call me asking me did I know who my fathers lawyer was, rather than ask him that themselves, to which I told them I wasn't going to assist them unless they was honest to me, is my father threatening you with his lawyer like he was doing with me and eventually they said Yes so I told them the name of the lawyer and I also stressed they speak to the Redacted not the SMHS because this is what people with the mental health conditions my father has does, he thinks he can use legal and punitive men's rather than seeking psychological help however my

fathers mental health issues are so severe he cannot even comprehend let alone accept he needs help to begin with everyone else is the problem not him, again I have ask how is he a fit and proper person re the legislation to have a firearms license and firearms both legal and the illegal ones he hides and yet this entire time no concern let alone action has been taken to prevent what one could be a tragedy and I have receipts many of them so nobody will ever be able to say they wasn't aware! This is where changes are needed, not changes to what gun owners can or can't have or how many, but getting guns out of the hands of those who genuinely are a risk to not only themselves, their families but also the wider community! If you can't agree with and act upon that then even asking people for submissions to this consultation is a total farce!

And yet in the wake of Bondi only corrupt and incompetent individuals want to persecute those whom since 1996 have done all the right things. They refuse to acknowledge the royal commission findings that this was the failure of the Firearms Registry in NSW, NSW Police and the Intel agencies that had flagged these men on more than 1 occasion the Intel agencies really should have relentlessly followed up if not gone as far as to frequently harass those not acting upon these concerns until they was and 15 people are dead as a result.

So leave the rules alone proposing firearms caps are an uneducated joke, they don't make anyone safer, look what I just described above with my father, Government should be focused on dealing with those doing real harm in our communities not persecuting good honest law abiding people. Australians respect for law enforcement and politicians across this country are at an all time low and even the mere suggestion of such deals like this are exactly why, crime has gone up not down reporting is down as well because we are sick to death of Tasmania Police not showing up.

So how about this for a strategy, drop the firearms Redacted because that's exactly what this is.

How about we have submissions and strategies into the overall operation of Tasmania Police and the expectations of the public of Police Conduct and police responses, how about the Police Minister either hands the reins to someone more mature and capable or instead of having the Commissioner write legislation, he listens and does what the public want and expect. Here's a few great suggestions get rid of the Commissioner she crossed a line trying to influence what laws are in relation to firearms, that crossed a

line, while it was bad what happened to [Redacted] this was also another Tasmania Police FAILURE. The Special Operations group was present at that Police Visit, protocols were not followed, those protocols need to be made even tougher, if SOG is present or slated to TAS Police members should have no choice but to yield control at a scene until they say it's clear, if this simple step had been followed [Redacted] would still be alive and I suspect his killer would be as well. Look what happened in Victoria, some yet to be named idiot deemed SOG wouldn't be needed to go see [Redacted] yet why did they need 10 officers for 1 man? Look how that ended yet again 2 preventable deaths.

Another strategy, no unmanned Police Stations in Tasmania, this has been a joke for too long and it's led to people losing their lives [Redacted] and while we are on that case the man who did that shouldn't have even had the opportunity to do this. Police stations don't necessarily have full blown police manning them either they can be just people who have the basic training including firearms only difference being they never leave the station to do regular police or emergency work instead their work centres around the police station meaning anyone in need can go there anytime day or night should the situation arrive, and to be quite frank given the level of wasteful spending by all governments round this country who would even care what this cost if done right.

Finally it's no secret that Police frequently deal with the same people over and over again and these people end up going to court making excuses about mental health or whatever it may be only to get bugger all sentence if not a slap on the wrist if not a high five from the Judge like take magistrates like [Redacted] as an example, we have all seen her ridiculously light sentences, even [Redacted] that should have been life in prison pure and simple do some research this in the very least what the public expected however at the same time this should extend to those who kill all people not greater sentences just because someone is a police officer or not.

Now on the topic of recidivism, it's 2026 we have remarkable technology nowadays, why aren't we house arresting in the very least these pains on society we have ankle monitoring bracelets, and depending on the severity of their crime why not also incorporate it as leverage for rehabilitation for example the only way out during their sentence is for work, and or study, study where possible would be under house arrest however some study might have to be undertaken elsewhere but the bottom line is you know where the individual is at all times, furthermore we could add a few other caveats in, such as the ability to visit a nominated supermarket that lies between their work/school and home and only for a set period this takes the burden off others in their

lives having to help them out of a situation they got themselves in, I have always been a fan of the no drinking or drug side of it as well and they need to be made aware they can be visited at any time and tested, I feel like taking away those vices goes a long way to helping end their recidivist behaviour, of course the individual would be free to visit a hospital or Dr's clinic or rehab whatever was already prior ordered but they can't just go there but again with the wonders of technology it would be easy to have a system in place they can log into 24/7 to book in where they are going and what they need etc etc. All the tech is there, we just need a government along with justice system, police force and mental health services to get their shit together because their failings repeatedly have done equally as much if not more harm than the criminals in this country themselves.

Compared to the mainland Tasmania is a small place, much lower population, it would be much easier to try out such a forward thinking approach that when it proves a success because let's be honest it would be better than the sorry state things are in now it would adopted across the whole country!

So how about we grow up and we stop trying to persecute law abiding firearms owners with more ridiculous restrictions that does nothing to protect the wider public from everything I have described above. It's to be seen as doing something when in reality you are just making things worse. Police Commissioners aren't there to dictate to the people what any rules are other than those already enshrined in law, Donna Adams crossed a line when she even attempted to do this. The Police Commissioner is supposed to be the head of the police force responsible for its overall command administration and operational effectiveness. Making new laws or calling for them is not her job! And behaviour like hers just breeds more lack of respect for law enforcement! Donna isn't there to influence or write legislation for Felix Ellis. And the moment this kind of behaviour came to light she should have had to step down this shouldn't be tolerated, poll the public we don't agree with it, we didn't vote for Donna Adams last time I checked she wasn't on the ballot!

And before I forget to mention this, the firearms amnesty needs to be amended and toughened up, I see claims of 3 months jail for stolen guns whoopy do what a penalty NOT! 3 months isn't even a slap on the wrist, and let's be honest there is no room in the overcrowded prison system now. So stop gaslighting the public, make the penalties tougher! So I want to see someone grow a set of balls, Get this into law, hold a press conference and tell anyone out there still hiding firearms stolen or legally acquired that they was supposed to surrender after 1996 that they have 28 days to surrender them or

if court they will get jail time per weapon and let's get a little technical here have different prison terms for Category of weapons they are caught with because my father Cat C & D's. Make the punishment severe enough to warrant people thinking shit not worth holding on to these any longer, also I believe and I only say this as an extra carrot to get people to do the right thing is they should be able to surrender them to a dealer but again rules could be put in place there for example the dealer going to them to secure the weapons as opposed to the person hiding them taking them to the dealer because I think that's smarter! Obviously changes would need to be made to covers dealers on this, and then dealers can determine if the guns can be sold or turned over to police!

Why someone hasn't proposed or done this already is beyond me but hey this are what consultations are for.

I make no apologies for my words or my passion, but I am tired of being referred to as a potential criminal particularly by those who are corrupt inept and incompetent and even worse those in a position to service and protect the public and uphold the law and seeing them repeatedly not do that. That is what has to change, I see Tasmania Police are going to be grilled about their piss poor handling of child sex abuse cases, DV etc's but I think we need to look at Tasmania Police and it's lack of policing overall!

I am not police bashing I am certainly police bashing the bad actors, the Commissioner stepping outside her pervue, seeing cases of a disqualified driver police officer that killed 2 innocent people do jail time, the Pedo cop [Redacted] and Tasmania Police's and the Police minister at the time Michael Ferguson's corrupt and incompetent handling of that matter, hell even the drink driving senior constable from Circular Head who lost their license but was still allowed to drive on duty during their civilian license suspension, these examples of bad behaviour should have resulted in instant dismissal and Tasmania Police actively prosecuting these cases to the fullest extent of the law anything less erodes the public's faith in police and policing. It's two-tiered policing and this is bad for all involved! So leave Firearms Laws alone, just more aggressively and actively prosecute the ones already in place and from a policing perspective how about you focus on criminals instead of burdening the law abiding!

Regards

Submission on the Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026

Strengthening the Integrity of Tasmania's Firearms Licensing System

To: Strategy and Support

Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management

Re: Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026

Executive Summary

- I support the introduction of the National Firearms Register and the Bill's objective of improving community safety.
- While the Bill strengthens firearm traceability and information sharing, it provides limited measures to verify that the genuine reason for holding a firearms licence continues throughout the life of that licence.
- I recommend introducing a proportionate framework for the periodic verification of the genuine reason appropriate to each category of licence.
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) could assist Tasmania Police with administrative verification while leaving all licensing decisions to authorised officers.

Submission

I welcome the opportunity to comment on the Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026.

I am a long-term Tasmanian Category C firearms licence holder. I own one firearm, which is used solely for vermin control on my rural property. My comments are made from the perspective of a responsible licence holder who supports sensible regulation that protects public safety while recognising the legitimate needs of lawful firearms owners.

I support the Government's objectives of improving community safety and implementing the National Firearms Register. Measures that improve firearm traceability, information sharing and prevent firearms entering the illicit market are positive initiatives that will strengthen the administration of Tasmania's firearms laws.

I believe the Bill provides an opportunity to further strengthen the integrity of Tasmania's firearms licensing system.

While the Bill improves the ability to identify firearm ownership and supports national firearm traceability, it provides limited additional measures to verify that the genuine reason upon which a firearms licence was granted continues throughout the life of that licence.

In my view, community safety is best achieved not simply by regulating firearms, but by ensuring that every firearms licence continues to be supported by a genuine, lawful and verifiable reason for ownership.

Where a licence is granted for vermin control on another person's property, a permission authority alone should not be regarded as sufficient evidence of an ongoing genuine reason. Licence holders should retain a simple activity record demonstrating continuing legitimate pest control, supported where appropriate by confirmation from the landholder.

Likewise, sporting and target shooters should be able to demonstrate continued participation through recognised club attendance or competition records. Similar evidence appropriate to each licence category should support the ongoing genuine reason for holding that licence.

These records should not be routinely submitted. They should simply be retained by the licence holder and produced only at licence renewal, during random audit, or where there are reasonable grounds for Tasmania Police to review continuing eligibility.

Where a licence holder is unable to demonstrate that the genuine reason continues to exist, the Act should provide an appropriate review process. Following procedural fairness and any rights of review, Tasmania Police should have the discretion to suspend or cancel a licence where the genuine reason can no longer be established.

To minimise additional administrative workload, the Government should consider using Artificial Intelligence as an administrative support tool within the National Firearms Register. AI could assist licensing officers by verifying that renewal applications include the evidence required to support the continuing genuine reason for holding a licence and by

identifying incomplete or inconsistent applications for further review. Decisions to grant, renew, suspend or cancel a licence should remain the responsibility of an authorised Tasmania Police licensing officer.

The National Firearms Register should not only record firearm ownership but also support the ongoing verification of the genuine reason upon which each firearms licence was granted. Doing so would strengthen the integrity of Tasmania's firearms licensing system, improve community confidence and complement the objectives of this Bill.

Recommendation

I respectfully recommend that the Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026 be amended to include a proportionate framework for the periodic verification of the genuine reason supporting each firearms licence, appropriate to the category of licence held, using existing renewal processes and supported by appropriate administrative technology, including Artificial Intelligence as an administrative support tool.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

Yours faithfully,

Redacted

Subject: Formal Submission on the Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026

Dear Minister Ellis and Members of the Consultation Committee,

I am writing to formally submit my views on the proposed Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026. While I support the Government's overarching goal of improving community safety and keeping firearms out of the hands of criminals, I hold significant concerns regarding several provisions within the Bill that unfairly target law-abiding, licensed firearms owners in Tasmania.

The Tasmanian Government has correctly identified that the true threat to public safety stems from the illicit firearms market and criminal networks, not from heavily vetted and responsible firearms owners. The Bill contains several commendable measures that reflect this principle; however, the proposed reclassification of specific firearms categories undermines the Government's own stated commitment to not penalising those who are doing the right thing.

Support for Targeted Criminal Penalties

I strongly support the Government's decision to introduce a mandatory minimum sentence of three months for the theft of a firearm or the possession of a stolen firearm. Stolen firearms fuel the black market and empower organised crime, and directing law enforcement and judicial resources toward punishing those who steal and illegally trade firearms is the most effective and targeted way to enhance public safety. This measure is proportionate, evidence-based, and appropriately focused on the source of the problem.

I also support the introduction of Australian citizenship as the default eligibility requirement for firearms licensing. Ensuring that only Australian citizens — those with a demonstrated, enduring commitment to this country and its laws — are entitled to hold a firearms licence is a reasonable and principled safeguard. The proposed exemptions

for New Zealand citizens and other defined circumstances demonstrate a sensible and balanced approach to this requirement.

Unfair Targeting of Licensed Firearms Owners Through Reclassification Despite the positive elements of the Bill, the proposed reclassification of straight-pull and button/lever-release centre-fire rifles and shotguns to a Category C licence is deeply concerning and constitutes an unjustified burden on law-abiding, licensed firearms owners.

Reclassification is Not Supported by Evidence. Straight-pull and lever-release firearms rely on technology that has existed for well over a century and do not possess the rapid-fire capabilities of semi-automatic or fully automatic weapons. These are manually operated firearms that present no greater public safety risk than any other Category A or B firearm. Reclassifying them to Category C effectively bans them for the vast majority of recreational shooters, hunters, and collectors who hold standard licences. As Shooters Union Tasmania president [Redacted] has noted, this reclassification appears to be a political compromise rather than a fact-based one, driven by the perception that these firearms “sound scary” rather than any credible evidence that they pose an elevated risk.

Licensed Owners Are Already Rigorously Vetted. Every person who currently owns a straight-pull or lever-release firearm has already undergone rigorous background checks, complied with strict storage requirements, and remains subject to ongoing police scrutiny. Reclassification does not remove a single illegal weapon from the streets. It does not disrupt a single criminal network. It simply creates more red tape and financial hardship for people who have done nothing wrong. As MP Carlo Di Falco rightly stated, “the real public safety risk is firearms in the hands of people that are not a fit and proper person” — and reclassification does nothing to address that risk.

Misallocation of Public Resources. The Government has proposed a buyback scheme offering 1.5 times the market value for reclassified firearms. While fair compensation for affected owners is appropriate if reclassification proceeds, this expenditure of significant taxpayer funds on the buyback of legally owned firearms from vetted citizens diverts critical resources away from frontline policing, intelligence operations, and targeted action against organised crime and the illicit firearms trade. These resources would be far better deployed in taking firearms out of criminal hands rather than out of the hands of licensed owners.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The Tasmanian Government has an opportunity to implement fit-for-purpose firearms legislation that genuinely targets criminal behaviour without unnecessarily restricting the rights of law-abiding citizens. The measures targeting theft, illegal possession, and intelligence sharing are to be commended. However, the reclassification of straight-pull and lever-release firearms remains an unjustified and disproportionate imposition on compliant licence holders.

I urge the Government to amend the Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026 by:

- Abandoning the reclassification of straight-pull and button/lever-release firearms to Category C, allowing them to remain accessible to Category A and B licence holders who have already demonstrated they are fit and proper persons.
- Focusing all legislative and financial resources on combating the illicit firearms market, illegal possession, and firearms theft — the genuine sources of community risk.
- Maintaining the commitment to the National Firearms Register and enhanced intelligence sharing, which represent meaningful, evidence-based improvements to public safety.

The Government's own words are instructive: "Our focus is on keeping firearms out of the hands of terrorists and criminals, not penalising law-abiding licence holders." I respectfully urge the Government to honour that commitment fully by removing the reclassification provisions from the final Bill.

Thank you for considering this submission.

Yours sincerely,

A black rectangular box with the word "Redacted" in white, sans-serif font, centered within the box.

Redacted

Redacted

Dear Sir/Madam,

As a Tasmanian resident who has lawfully owned firearms all my adult life for the purpose of hunting game for the table, vermin control and target shooting, I feel it my duty to pass on my comments, submission and thoughts on the subject matter in order of proposed amendments.

I agree completely with a NFR Australia wide, long overdue.

1. Reclassification of the listed firearms to Cat C, agreed.
2. Aust citizenship as the default requirement etc - strongly agree, sadly long overdue !
3. Makes sense to me, share a gun with a mate if you wish, but then not onto a third party.
4. Agreed, The onus should be on the owner/lender to make sure his firearm is lawfully borrowed.
5. Yes.
6. Yes.
7. Common sense tells me this should be a minimum of 4 days - 96 hrs. Eg, Pickup your mates firearm Thurs eve, drop it back Mon eve. You would borrow mostly for a weekend trip away. A trip of 7 days or more, hunting on mainland Aust does not work in the above time frame, should this be considered ?
8. Yes.
9. Yes.
10. I think this time frame is a bit short, 4 weeks perhaps, give the person a chance to settle, new residence, environment, job etc. Get the gun safe bolted to the wall. A compromise might be, Make it law the firearm owner needs to contact Tas Police and advise them of their intent to move to Tas and the proposed date of arrival.

11. Agreed, I think. What are the exact personal particulars to notify ?

12. Yes.

13. Yes.

14. Yes.

15. Yes.

16. Yes.

17. Yes.

18. Yes, as long as a min of 5 shots per bolt action rifle is not reduced.

19. Yes, but would like more info on this to explain the changes ?

20. Yes.

I wish to also add the following observations. The Port Arthur Tragedy shocked the nation; changes had to be made and they were. Semi auto military style firearms have no place in hunting game in Tas, they are generally inaccurate and should be only owned by collectors under the correct category.

This terrible act was committed by a homegrown madman, not of sound mind. It had absolutely nothing to do with the thousands of law-abiding firearm owners, but they paid the price, reimbursed or not !

12 guage, 5 shot semi auto shotguns owned by our duck and wallaby shooters are gone, now we have a huge increase in the number of both, as well as a current fallow deer explosion in numbers !

The Bondi Beach tragedy, again a shocking act, but caused by extremism and antisemitism and a non-Aust resident holding a firearms licence, (I understand) Again absolutely nothing to do with law - abiding firearm owners and the majority of Australian's know this as a fact. They also know that some security govt departments are failing us for a number of reasons.

Share information between security and firearm law dept's Aust wide of firearms owners , Screen - check more closely new firearm applications, make the smart changes, in the hope we can stop tragedies from happening, make law breakers more responsible for

their illegal actions, but please don't keep making the law-abiding firearms owners suffer further because of the minority who sadly got through the net.

I enjoy my recreational hunting as time in the bush, watching and listening to the animals, trying to do my bit in keeping the numbers of game animals in check, preparing and cooking game meats for friends and family, assisting the landowner with vermin control. I just wish to be able to continue it without unnecessary restrictions.

I appreciate the opportunity to express my thoughts and will be interested in seeing the final results of the amendments.

Redacted

Redacted

Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management

Re: Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026

I wish to raise a concern regarding the proposed amendment to Section 14(1)(a) of the Firearms Act 1996, which would redefine Category A air rifles as those that:

"...have a magazine capacity of no more than 10 rounds; and are not self-loading."

While I understand and support the objectives of improving public safety and preparing for the National Firearms Register, I am concerned that this amendment may unintentionally affect a significant number of ordinary PCP air rifles currently owned by licensed Tasmanian firearms owners.

As one example, I own a Redacted air rifle chambered in .22 calibre. It is a pre-charged pneumatic air rifle requiring the shooter to manually cycle the action between every shot. It is not self-loading in any respect. However, it is fitted with a factory 12-shot rotary magazine.

This appears to mean that, under the proposed wording, the rifle would no longer satisfy the definition of a Category A firearm solely because of its factory fitted magazine capacity.

My rifle is not unique in this regard. Many PCP air rifles currently sold in Australia by manufacturers including Kral, FX Airguns, Air Arms, Hatsan, Reximex and others are supplied with factory magazines exceeding ten rounds. In many cases, these magazine capacities are a feature of the manufacturer's standard design rather than an aftermarket modification.

More importantly, the draft legislation does not appear to explain what then becomes of such a firearm. It is unclear whether an air rifle with a factory magazine capacity exceeding ten rounds is intended to be reclassified into another category, become a prohibited firearm, require modification, or become subject to a buyback. This uncertainty makes it difficult for existing licence holders to understand how the legislation would apply in practice and, in my view, warrants clarification before the Bill proceeds.

The consultation material notes that the Bill includes reclassification provisions that may require a buyback of affected firearms. It is not apparent whether these provisions are intended to extend to PCP air rifles such as mine, and I would appreciate this being explicitly clarified before the legislation proceeds. If this outcome is intended, it would represent a significant change affecting a large number of lawfully owned sporting air rifles.

I request clarification on the following points:

- Is it the Government's intention to prohibit or reclassify PCP air rifles solely because they are supplied with factory magazines exceeding ten rounds?
- If so, into which firearms category are these rifles intended to be reclassified?
- If they are not intended to be reclassified, how is the proposed Section 14(1)(a) intended to operate in respect of these firearms?
- Will existing owners be required to surrender their firearms, participate in a buyback, modify their firearms, or replace magazines?
- Has consideration been given to the fact that many PCP air rifles currently sold throughout Australia are manufactured with factory magazines exceeding ten rounds, and that compliant factory alternatives may not exist for many models?

It is unclear what public safety benefit is achieved by applying a ten-round magazine limit to PCP air rifles. Instead, the proposal risks unintentionally affecting a large number of licensed firearms owners possessing sporting air rifles that have been lawfully sold and registered in Tasmania for many years.

If the intention is simply to align magazine capacities across firearm categories, I suggest that air rifles warrant separate consideration due to their unique operating characteristics and substantially lower risk profile.

I therefore ask that the proposed amendment to Section 14(1)(a) be reconsidered. If the ten-round limit is intended to remain, I ask that the legislation clearly state how existing PCP air rifles are to be treated, and that appropriate transitional arrangements, exemptions, or grandfathering provisions be included to avoid unintended consequences for lawful firearms owners.

At a minimum, I believe the consultation material should clearly explain the intended treatment of these firearms so that affected licence holders are able to provide informed feedback during the consultation process.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback during this consultation process.

Yours faithfully,

Redacted

In addition to, my other comments, I would also like to look forward to possibly being pro active maybe.

I think it may help moving forward, if all licensed firearms owners have to declare ownership of 3d printers in their household. This could halt temptation for misadventure by the owner. It will not stop illegal downloading or creation of firearms by people that are not allowed them, however the firearms regs don't do that either.

For consideration at least, as most TASPOL seizures seem to involve something 3d printed

Sorry to ramble

Redac
ted

Redacted

I have been a shooter all my life. My father before me. My Grandfather before him and so on. It is in my blood, and has been a part of my family's history. All of this nonsense being argued with the Firearms laws is an attack on that history, and threatens the future for people like me.

While I do agree with certain changes with the Firearms act, like the minimum 3 month jail period for stolen firearms and needing to be an Australian citizen to gain a licence, I certainly DO NOT AGREE with the re classification of the centre fire straight-pull, button/lever release rifles, and ALSO the magazine capacity limit for "some Category A and B" Firearms.

These changes would affect thousands of law abiding Australian Firearm owners, myself included. It simply is not fair that we are punished for the Government's lapse in judgement. We do everything by-the-book, random safe inspections, safe inspections when you move house, if you go over a certain number of firearms you need a full security system installed, the cost of which can be great.

Re classification is not the answer and neither is reducing the magazine capacity for some firearms. The lever action rifle is used commonly at gun clubs around the country for 'Western' club events. You would be taking away an entire discipline for us, not to mention hurting people that use them for pest control on their private property.

Many people also have these firearms that have been passed down through families for generations, many that are lever action, and then what? We are just meant to forfeit them because most of us are unable to gain a Cat C licence? That is unacceptable and un-Australian. The people that brought these potential changes to the table should be ashamed

Law abiding Australian firearm owners have been bullied for years with this type of thing, always with the threat of laws being made tighter to further reduce what we love. So we all do our best to make sure everything is above board, to show why we are worthy of having such things.

PLEASE DO NOT FURTHER REDUCE OUR FREEDOMS!

I truly hope you see that this is not the way to make the public safer, but to reduce people that already have to do so much to keep doing what we love. I doubt anyone will ready this, but if you do I hope you see sense.

Thank you,

Redacted

Dear Tasmanian government

I am writing to express my support for maintaining the current firearms laws that allow responsible, licensed firearm owners to assist farmers with essential vermin and wildlife management in Tasmania.

I have personally helped farmers with controlling kangaroos, wallabies, and deer where they have caused significant damage to crops, pasture, and fencing. I have seen firsthand the financial impact these animals can have on farming operations when their numbers are not properly managed. Responsible firearm owners provide an important service by helping landholders protect their livelihoods while ensuring that pest and overabundant wildlife are managed as humanely and effectively as possible.

The current firearms licensing system already requires strict background checks, licensing, safe storage, and responsible firearm use. These laws ensure that firearms remain in the hands of suitable people while allowing legitimate pest control work to continue. Introducing further restrictions would make it more difficult for farmers to access the assistance they need and could lead to increased crop losses and greater economic pressure on Tasmania's agricultural sector.

I believe it is important that any future review of firearms legislation recognises the vital role that responsible, licensed shooters play in supporting farmers and managing wildlife populations. Maintaining practical and balanced firearms laws will help protect both public safety and the viability of our farming communities.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my views. I appreciate your commitment to representing the interests of Tasmania's rural communities and hope you will continue to support sensible firearms legislation that recognises the needs of farmers and those who assist them.

Yours sincerely,

Redacted

To whom it may concern,

I would like the following submissions. I am a resident of Queensland , however, as these firearm legislation amendments are leading into a National Firearms Agreement, it think it is a right of all Australian residents to have input into proposed changes that will end up impacting them. I am a licenced shooter active in the sport and lifestyle.

I am all for amendments that focus on criminals and extremists. I do not support further restrictions to a highly regulated and compliant shooting community. I do not support reclassification of straight pull, button release or lever release firearms. It is not the style of firearm that is the issue. It is the people using them. The Bondi tragedy was as a result of poor communication between agencies and a failure of government agencies. Those two people should never have had access to firearms. Published findings of the Royal commission have highlighted this! Punishing, persecuting and restricting those that already comply is not identifying or solving the problem.

I also think the 24 hour period to notify for a change of circumstance/address is unreasonable. As long as the firearms are kept securely, there should be more time. A lot of people move house on weekends out of business hours. Circumstances need to be taken into account.

There should be reasonable expectations placed on producing firearms for inspection by police also. "As soon as possible " is a grey area. What if someone is away on holiday abroad. Can an over zealous police officer breach an individual because they were not there and then able to produce the firearm. The wording should be clearer and provide reasonable expectations on the individual in regard to the circumstances at the time. Not a grey interpretation of what's reasonable.

In short, I do not believe there should be any more restrictions to licensed , genuine shooters. The focus and efforts should be on criminals and people with extreme beliefs and behaviour.

Kind regards

Redacted

Redacted

Redacted

To whom it may concern,

I am a concerned firearms owner, and ex military member, who is a law abiding citizen and upstanding member of the community.

I am deeply offended that there are members of parliament who think they can make the country safer by restricting the amount of firearms I, and others like me, should own.

If you look at ALL the crimes committed with firearms, what percentage were committed by law abiding firearms owners with registered firearms? And, if there are any, how many of them used more than 4 firearms to commit the crime?

So now do you see why your putting a cap on firearm ownership numbers will not change a damn thing and will only punish those of us who obey the law. In what society do the honest get punished for the crimes of criminals.

Please, do not punish the innocent by putting caps on the number of firearms we can own.

Here is a very simple example of why someone may like to own 6 firearms.

Licensed holder is an avid hunter for game meat, relying on it as a means of bearing the cost of living.

That person would have a .22 for hunting rabbits

.223 for hunting wallabies

.243 for hunting deer

Shotgun for hunting waterfowl

Then if this person likes to do competition pistol shooting they might have a .22 pistol and a 9mm pistol for competing in two categories.

So there's 6 different firearms, all legitimate. It's no difference to an avid fisherman needing a lightweight fly rod and a lightweight spin rod for fishing for trout in streams, a heavier weight of both rods for fishing larger trout in lakes, then a super flexible rod for fishing for squid, and two to three different sized rods for deep sea fishing, and a large surf rod for beach fishing.

Targeting different species, and competing in different disciplines requires a varied list of tools.

I hope I have helped clarify this.

Please don't punish the innocent.

Thanks Redacted

Redacted

The current firearms laws keep the community safe and law abiding firearms users happy.

Criminals don't follow laws so making them tougher in regards to number of firearms owned is unnecessarily putting extra burdens on people doing the right thing. Make laws For illegal guns tougher also target people who have committed crimes with actual jail time and fines.

Sent from my iPhone

Redacted

To Hume it may concern,

Hi there I have read through what I can with proposed amendments to the firearm laws ect and whilst some make perfect sense there are some that seem like nonsense to me in my opinion , anything to do with caps to firearms is ridiculous ,because if a licensed firearm owner who has done nothing wrong is restricted when they have done nothing but abided by the current and future laws is just silly considering that the real problem which is the criminals or ones that don't abide by the law will continue to do as such and not be affected at all, which means the law abiding citizens will be restricted or punished for doing nothing wrong.

The buy back in my opinion will just be a way that people can get rid of old or no good firearms that they no longer require or want which they can already do by handing them in, this way they can make money off it which is a waste of taxpayers money in my opinion as criminals will not hand anything in because they are doing the wrong things to start with and the unregistered or stolen etc firearms will still be out there as criminals won't hand them in.

Thank you for reading my thoughts ect.

Kind regards,

Redacted

To whom it may concern,

I wish to make a submission on the Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026.

I am supportive of the all the proposed changed however, in line with the federal governments proposal and the views of Tasmania's Police Commissioner, I would like to see numerical firearms caps included as part of this legislation.

Kind regards,

Redacted

Hobart, Tasmania

Submission on the Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026.

I have previously written twice to the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management seeking clarification regarding reports that Tasmania Police Commissioner Donna Adams recommended the Government consider limits on the number of firearms an individual may own, and asking why those limits were ultimately not adopted. As I have not received a response to either correspondence, I welcome the opportunity to raise the issue through the formal consultation process.

Having reviewed both the draft Bill and the accompanying Consultation Information Sheet, I note that the proposed reforms make numerous significant changes to Tasmania's firearms laws. These include tighter firearm classifications, new storage and notification requirements, magazine capacity limits, stronger offences relating to stolen firearms, and reforms supporting the implementation of the National Firearms Register. The stated objective throughout these reforms is to improve public safety and strengthen Tasmania's firearms regulatory framework.

However, one notable omission is the absence of any proposal, discussion or explanation regarding limits on the number of firearms that may be owned by an individual licence holder.

If public reporting is correct that Tasmania Police recommended the Government consider ownership caps, it would be valuable for the consultation process to explain why that recommendation was not adopted. Public consultation should not only outline the reforms being proposed but also provide sufficient information to allow the community to understand the reasoning behind significant policy decisions that have been made during the development of the legislation.

The consultation material explains the rationale for many individual amendments, yet it provides no explanation as to why unlimited firearm ownership remains permissible under the proposed legislative framework. This is particularly noteworthy given that the Bill introduces a number of additional regulatory measures specifically aimed at reducing risks associated with firearm theft, diversion, unlawful possession and public safety.

I recognise that many Tasmanians have entirely legitimate reasons for owning firearms, including primary production, pest management, recreational hunting, collecting and

competitive shooting. My submission is not intended to question those lawful activities or the continued ability of licensed individuals to possess firearms for genuine reasons.

Rather, I question whether there should be any legislative limit on the accumulation of firearms by a single individual, or at the very least whether the Government should clearly explain why it has concluded that no such limit is necessary.

The Bill already recognises that firearm regulation should be proportionate to risk. It places restrictions on magazine capacities, reclassifies certain firearms into more restrictive licence categories, strengthens storage and reporting obligations, and increases penalties for firearm-related offending. These measures acknowledge that reducing opportunities for misuse, theft and diversion is an important public safety objective.

Given those objectives, it seems reasonable to ask whether unlimited accumulation of firearms by a single licence holder is consistent with the broader intent of the reforms. If the Government has concluded that ownership limits would not improve public safety, I believe that conclusion should be explained as part of the consultation process and supported by the evidence or policy analysis upon which it was based.

Accordingly, I encourage the Government to either:

- include consideration of firearm ownership limits as part of this legislative reform process; or
- publish the policy reasoning and evidence supporting its decision not to introduce ownership caps.

Tasmania has historically played an important role in Australia's firearms reforms. For that reason, I believe the community should have the opportunity to understand the policy basis for decisions on significant issues such as this, particularly where they relate directly to public safety.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Yours faithfully,

Redacted

To whom it may concern,

This amendment is a disgrace. As a responsible firearms owner this is a disgusting knee jerk response to a tragic act by people who should never have had access to firearms.

The only part of this bill that makes any sense is to not allow individuals known to the police to be associated with terror or radical organisations to have a firearms licence.

Any other changes should be scrapped.

Regards,

You don't often get email from [important](#)

Redacted

[Learn why this is](#)

To Whom It May Concern,

I have just been reading through the proposed Firearms Amendments and I believe that, Amendment no. 7 needs changes as it could be interpreted as follows:-

You have gone away hunting for two or more days, therefore your firearm is being stored in a different location from your residence for more than 24 hours. Which would require you to report this to the police even if you were only going for a weekend trip.

If the amendment is interpreted as above, it would create a logistical nightmare!

Regards

Reda
cted

Redacted

To whom it may concern,

Law abiding firearm owners in Australia have complied with some of the strictest conditions to firearms ownership in western civilisation history to date.

We have and will continue to abide by the law as we are good people and good citizens that love our state, country and its people.

Some of these proposals are a complete waste of taxpayers money that will force the state and country even further into debt that we are struggling to maintain as it is.

Where is the evidence that this proposed changes will make "the community safer"?

This phrase seems to be the political/media go to word behind these proposed reforms.

What will make the community safer is not some of these proposed laws that many focus on penalising law abiding firearm owners.

What part of these laws could make us safer?

Higher penalties for possession of illegal firearms, stealing firearms or possession of stolen firearms we of course do support.

Better intelligence sharing will help dramatically too and is a major contributing factor to why the bondi tragedy occurred.

Steps that will really make the community safer is taking firearms off criminals and terrorist's and locking them away or deporting them.

These proposals do little to address the above issue that triggered these reforms after the Bondi tragedy.

As criminals and terrorist's don't abide by the law of our beautiful country.

In addition the encouragement and support of culling introduced species like fallow deer that are increasingly causing road accidents will make the community safer.

We as a nation were all horrified by the tragic terrorist attack that occurred in Bondi and fully condemn the actions of the extremist terrorist's that committed that terrible crime.

I applaud the efforts of the police men and woman and members of the public who risked their lives to stop these terrorist's that day. You are heroes.

The royal commission clearly stated in it's findings that it was a failure of government agencies that lead to a known person that had access to legally obtained firearms not being apprehended prior to the event due to government agencies not communicating that his son was on an ASIO watchlist and the lawfully issued firearms therefore not being seized by police to prevent this attack.

They had all the information they needed to stop this but didn't communicate that to the other agencies.

Who in the government is being held responsible for this failure?

Is this accountability at a federal and state governance level? We deserve an answer.

The loss of 15 innocent people being murdered. A very dark day for our country.

Instead the focus of action was placed onto LAFO by the federal and NSW governments.

Unbelievable really!

What a handball of responsibility and accountability by our federal government onto our good law abiding citizens.

Does the federal government believe that law abiding firearm owners should face punishment and loss of their assets for the acts of terrorist's? And for a failing of their own governments inactions?

We would like and deserve an honest answer to this question.

The problem lies with current laws already in place prior to the attack at Bondi not being enforced to protect our citizens from such an attack. Was it underfunded and under resourced government agencies cutbacks contributing to this intelligence failure?

As a LAFO myself, most, if not all law abiding firearm owners do not agree with many of these changes to our current laws.

I personally do however agree with "Australian citizens only" owning firearms requirement, which should be considered to help prevent people who want to harm us from getting access to legally obtained firearms.

How are these laws going to prevent illegally obtained firearms being bought by criminals on the black market?

Well they won't help much at all.

We reject reclassification of straight pull, lever release and button release firearms in Tasmania based on the fact that these types of firearms are not only used to cull feral and introduced animals that destroy our feedstocks for livestock, crops, fences, infrastructure and waterways, but these above mentioned action type of firearms that we use are a more humane and are a more productive type of tool that we use responsibly to control vermin and introduced species and protect our agricultural assets from damage, not to mention protect our beautiful wilderness from terrible damage the deer cause.

If the the above mentioned actions are reclassified then obtaining a category c licence should be made more readily available to landowners who need these tools to maintain their land and protect their assets and feed stocks in an efficient manner.

With reasonable checks in place of course.

Currently it is very difficult to get a category c licence unless your primary source of income is purely from your farm from my understanding.

Nearly all small farmers have to work normal jobs too, as to provide enough income to survive as well as run their farms. This issue needs addressing in parliament.

We have seen a huge increase of introduced species (deer) in rural areas in Tasmania over the past years causing massive financial losses to the agricultural industries.

Driving up costs that get passed onto other working family's in our community, so the cycle of cost of living pressures increase even further into our community due to lack of productivity in farming due to feral pest damage and feed loss.

Recreational hunting and commercial culling is and will always be needed to try to contain this rising issue to our state and country. Recreational hunters contribute to controlling this issue at their own cost and contribute significantly to rural towns when they visit by supporting small businesses, buying food, fuel, ammunition and accommodation etc.

We also reject caps of numbers of firearms we should be able to own. Reasons are as follows.

Many of us LAFO are sporting shooters in many different disciplines that require different firearms to compete in our chosen sport, by competing we get to become better and more accurate at shooting in a disciplined, strictly controlled and fantastic community environment, which in turn these skills obtained at the range make for a far more humanely implemented practice in pest and feral management, in addition recreational hunters and farmers also require multiple different calibre firearms for different types of livestock dispatching, pest, feral and vermin control on our properties and in licensed hunting areas and private property around tasmania and on the mainland. Larger calibres are in fact written into law as a minimum for the humane culling or harvesting of deer for example.

These larger calibres only increase again when going to the mainland for different feral and game species. Target shooting rifles and hunting rifles are completely different too so another rifle is required in the field as to at the range in competition in many cases.

So owning only 10 firearms when we hunt, control vermin, control introduced species of various sizes, humanely dispatch livestock, and shoot in competitions is asking us to drop out of certain disciplines and is just not practical and penalising LAFO.

Anything can be used as a weapon in the wrong hands of a person that is unfit and has the intent to cause harm.

This is why LAFO go through checks in current legislation to legally obtain a firearms licence, as to ensure only fit and responsible people in our community have access to firearms and a genuine need.

Is the government going to propose a law on how many pairs of scissors a hairdresser can own, or how many hammers or nailguns a builder can have in their possession?

Will mechanics only be allowed to own 5 or 10 spanners or screwdrivers to complete their work?

Will a trucking company be restricted to only owning 5 or 10 trucks in case someone of ill intent was to use them in an act of terrorism?

Will recreational fishermen be restricted to only owning 5 fishing rods?

Will chefs be restricted to only having 5 knives?

Are golf players only allowed 5 or 10 clubs to compete in their chosen sport or recreation?

All examples above could be used a weapon in the wrong hands of a mentally unstable and unfit person.

A cap on numbers of firearms is no different to any sports person, tradesperson or any citizen being told that they can only own a certain amount of tools or equipment that they use and need to do their job, or to compete in their chosen sport or recreational activity of choice

I do see how a firearm could be considered as a more dangerous tool if misused than the above mentioned examples, the big difference is firearms ownership, storage, transportation and use are strictly controlled in current law to prevent unauthorised access to tools that could, in the wrong hands of unfit individuals be used as weapons for harm within our community.

Our firearms are securely stored and transported under very strict rules and conditions that we abide by as LAFO.

We have laws in place if properly enforced and communicated through the correct government agencies this terrorist attack could have been "and should have been in the case of the Bondi tragedy" completely preventable prior to Bondi and into the future.

I agree that we should enforce our current laws in place now, through sufficient funding for government departments and ongoing background checks for firearm owners which I do support.

All of these proposed changes are not needed and are a knee-jerk reaction that will not only damage small Tasmanian businesses that supply agriculture and sporting shooters, but will also lead to an increase in numbers of pest, introduced species and feral animals costing industry, the community and government even more into the future and risking lives on our roads from hitting feral deer whilst travelling.

Can I encourage parliament to consider that the problem was a failure of upholding, and the failure to administer/enforce the current laws that were already in place, this is why this tragic event occurred as the royal commission exposed in its findings.

I wish to express my opinion that law abiding firearm owners should not be penalised for the actions of terrorist's.

Remember that we the people of this great state of Tasmania will vote in the next election in a direction that supports the actions of our government's choice's that addresses the real issue here.

The real issue was extremist terrorist's having access to firearms, then engaging in mass murder of innocent civilians and failures of our current laws not being enforced through a lack of communication between enforcement agencies being underfunded/under resourced due to government cutbacks leading up to Bondi, and the failure of our current laws not being implemented to protect our citizens from terrorism in NSW.

Being a resident of 49 years and a landowner and farmer in Tasmania for over 20 years, I do pray and hope that the government of today makes an informed and educated decision on this important matter for so many of us landowners, sports persons, farmers, recreational hunters and all the good citizens of this country.

It is the governments responsibility to make the right decision. You already have the laws in place now. You can make them even better but please not at the expense of our law abiding firearm owners.

Enforce them and we can continue to keep our great country safe.

May God bless Australia. And keep us in good hands.

Regards

Redacted

Redacted

Dear Representative,

I am writing as a concerned Tasmanian writing as a licensed firearm owner, a hunter, a clay target shooter, a club member or volunteer, and a supporter of lawful shooting, hunting and outdoor recreation to urge you not to support proposed firearm law changes that unfairly impact law-abiding Tasmanians.

On evidence-based policy, I ask you to consider that Any changes to firearm laws should be based on clear evidence, not public perception or political pressure. The Government should explain how proposed firearm caps or buybacks would reduce crime or improve public safety. Policy should target the source of firearm crime, not people who are already licensed, checked and compliant. Law changes should be supported by data, proper risk assessment and transparent reasoning.

On law-abiding firearm owners are not criminals, I ask you to consider that Licensed firearm owners already undergo background checks, waiting periods, storage requirements and ongoing compliance. Law-abiding Tasmanians should not be punished for the actions of criminals. The focus should be on illegal firearms, firearm trafficking, organised crime and violent offenders. Compliant firearm owners should be treated fairly and proportionately.

On no arbitrary firearm caps, I ask you to consider that Any proposed firearm cap must be justified with clear evidence. The Government should explain how any cap number was chosen and whether it is based on research or risk. A single blanket cap may not fairly reflect different legitimate needs, licence categories, sports, occupations or rural uses. Firearm ownership should be assessed against genuine reason, safe storage and compliance, not an arbitrary number.

On concerns about buybacks, I ask you to consider that A buyback targeting law-abiding owners may be costly while doing little to address illegal firearms or criminal misuse. Public money may be better directed toward enforcement, border control, illegal firearm trafficking and repeat violent offenders. Any buyback proposal should clearly explain the cost, scope, evidence base and expected public safety benefit.

Lawful owners should not be forced to surrender legally acquired property without clear justification and fair process.

On sporting, club and recreational impacts, I ask you to consider that Shooting clubs provide safe, structured and supervised environments. Sporting shooters often require different firearms for different disciplines, calibres, competition requirements and backup equipment. Further restrictions could reduce participation, harm clubs and discourage juniors, families and volunteers. Clubs contribute to regional communities, local businesses, events and responsible firearm education.

On hunting, farming and land management, I ask you to consider that Firearms are practical tools for farmers, landholders and hunters. Pest control, livestock protection and property management are real needs in rural and regional Tasmania. Hunting also plays a role in food gathering, conservation and land management. Blanket restrictions may disproportionately affect rural and regional Tasmanians.

On industry and economic impacts, I ask you to consider that Firearm law changes can affect clubs, dealers, ranges, trainers, event organisers, farmers, pest controllers and regional businesses. New laws may increase licensing costs, storage costs, compliance costs and administrative workload. The Government should explain who bears these costs and whether the burden is justified. Any economic and social impacts should be properly assessed before changes are made.

On consultation and transparency, I ask you to consider that The people most affected by these laws deserve genuine consultation. Sporting shooters, hunters, farmers, collectors, clubs, dealers, rural communities and industry groups should be included. The Government should be transparent about who was consulted and what feedback was received. If consultation has occurred, submissions, recommendations or summaries should be made public where appropriate.

On better focus on criminal enforcement, I ask you to consider that Resources should be focused on illegal firearms, organised crime, trafficking, border control and repeat violent offenders. Law-abiding firearm owners are already known to authorities and subject to strict compliance requirements. Public safety is best improved by targeting those who misuse firearms, not those who follow the law. Existing laws should be properly enforced before adding more restrictions to compliant people.

On questions to ask MPs, I ask you to consider that What evidence supports firearm caps? How will these laws reduce crime? How many firearm offences involve legally owned firearms? What consultation occurred before these proposals were developed? Were hunters, farmers, clubs, collectors, dealers and sporting shooters properly consulted? Why is the focus on licensed owners rather than illegal firearms and criminal misuse? What will the financial and administrative cost be? Will you commit to opposing unfair restrictions on law-abiding Tasmanians?

On personal stories matter, I ask you to consider that Explain your personal connection to shooting, hunting, farming, collecting, clubs or outdoor recreation. Mention how proposed changes could affect your family, property, sport, business, club or community. Keep your letter respectful, factual and personal. A letter in your own words is stronger than a copied template.

I ask that you oppose unfair restrictions on law-abiding Tasmanians, support proper consultation with affected communities, and provide a written response outlining your position on this issue.

Kind regards,

Launceston

Redacted

To Whom It May Concern, I am writing to formally object to the proposed reclassification of straight-pull and lever/button-release centre-fire firearms into Category C.

These proposed changes unfairly penalise law-abiding firearm owners without delivering any proven benefit to public safety.

Incorrect Classification:

Straight-pull and lever/button-release firearms are manually operated. They do not share the rapid-fire capability of semi-automatic weapons and should not be restricted under Category C.

Impact on Owners: Moving these common firearms to Category C effectively strips them from standard Category A and B licence holders, including recreational hunters and sports shooters who rely on them for safe, accurate pest control.

Waste of Public Funds: The proposed 1.5x market value buyback scheme will cost millions of taxpayer dollars. This money would be better spent on frontline policing and mental health services rather than seizing property from vetted citizens.

I urge the government to abandon the reclassification of these manually operated firearms and maintain their current Category A or B status.

Sincerely,

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

Submitted by: Redacted

Introduction

Thank you for providing the opportunity to comment on the Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026.

I appreciate Tasmania Police seeking feedback from stakeholders before progressing these proposed amendments.

I am making this submission in my personal capacity as a long-term licensed firearms owner, competitive pistol shooter and range official. I have been actively involved in recognised target shooting for many years and am a member of the Redacted

Redacted

This submission reflects my own views and practical experience and should not be interpreted as representing the views of any organisation with which I am associated.

Overall, I support the majority of the proposed amendments contained within the Bill. I believe many of the reforms will strengthen Tasmania's firearms legislation, improve public safety and modernise a number of administrative processes. My comments are intended to provide practical feedback on several areas that I believe would benefit from further consideration before the Bill is finalised.

General Comments

I support the stronger penalties for firearm theft and trafficking, improvements to dealer verification, implementation of the National Firearms Register, improved information sharing between jurisdictions, improved administrative processes and the continued focus on public safety.

I acknowledge that many of the amendments are intended to support implementation of the National Firearms Register and improve information sharing between Australian jurisdictions. I support those objectives. My comments are directed only at a small number of proposed amendments where I believe practical implementation or unintended consequences would benefit from further consideration.

The comments below are offered as constructive suggestions based on my experience as a competitor, range official and responsible firearms owner.

1. Reclassification of Straight Pull and Button Release Firearms

The explanatory material accompanying the Bill explains what is proposed, however it provides limited information explaining why these particular firearms require reclassification or what evidence demonstrates that the change will improve community safety. I understand the Government may have valid public safety reasons for proposing this change, but it is difficult to assess the proposal without that supporting information.

Suggestion: Consider providing additional information explaining the reasons for the proposed reclassification and ensure fair compensation and appropriate transition arrangements are available should the proposal proceed.

2. Temporary Storage of Firearms

The proposed 24-hour notification period may create practical difficulties for legitimate firearm owners attending competitions, interstate events, training camps, temporarily storing firearms at approved clubs, licensed dealers or gunsmiths, or while firearms are undergoing servicing or repair.

Suggestion: Consider extending the notification period to 14 days or providing practical exemptions for these legitimate circumstances.

3. Inspection Powers

I support the ability of Tasmania Police to undertake compliance inspections. Wherever practical, licence holders should be given reasonable notice to produce their firearms for inspection. This would maintain effective compliance while recognising that many license holders work, travel, be away on annual leave, or may be temporarily absent from their nominated storage location.

Suggestion: Consider including guidance that, where circumstances permit, reasonable notice should be provided to present firearms for inspection.

4. Lending of Firearms

The proposed provisions reinforce responsible firearms ownership. However, further clarification would assist licence holders in understanding their responsibilities regarding another person's storage arrangements.

Suggestion: Clarify whether verifying that the borrower holds a current firearms licence would normally satisfy the lender's obligations unless there are reasonable grounds to believe otherwise.

5. Magazine Capacity and Recognised Competitions

The proposed reduction from 15-round to 10-round magazines will have little impact on my own shooting activities. However, the practical impact on recognised interstate and international competitions deserves careful consideration.

Tasmania has a proud history of hosting State and National Championships and should continue to have the opportunity to host interstate and international target shooting competitions. This extends beyond ISSF and includes recognised Target Pistol Australia disciplines such as WA1500, Action Pistol, Metallic Silhouette, Service Pistol, Black Powder, Precision Service and other recognised disciplines.

From time to time these events attract interstate and overseas competitors who lawfully use equipment, including 15-round magazines, that is standard for recognised competition disciplines.

Rather than relying on discretionary approvals, I believe the legislation or supporting Regulations should provide a clear process allowing recognised interstate and overseas competitors attending approved competitions to temporarily possess, transport and use approved competition equipment where required under recognised competition rules.

Suggestion: Consider including a clear legislative or regulatory approval pathway so the proposed amendments do not unintentionally restrict Tasmania's ability to host these important sporting events.

Closing Comments

Overall, I believe the Bill contains many worthwhile reforms that will strengthen Tasmania's firearms legislation and improve public safety.

The comments contained in this submission are offered in the spirit of constructive consultation and are intended to provide practical feedback based on my experience as a competitor, range official and responsible firearms owner.

I trust these comments will assist in refining the legislation while continuing to support both public safety and Tasmania's long-standing record of responsible sporting firearms ownership.

Thank you for providing stakeholders with the opportunity to contribute to the consultation process.

Redacted

Firearm laws are fine the way they are, the national Firearm registry is a great idea. The reclassification of button release is a bad idea when it comes to vermin control.

If the government was all about public safety they would ban swimming in the ocean. More people died on our beaches this year than the Bondi terrorist attack, but no one will mention that.

Redacted

To whom it may concern

My view is that the proposed Tasmanian firearms amendments are flawed in that they do not impose a cap, or limit, on the number of firearms a person can own, instead opting for increased penalties relating to when those same firearms are stolen. Because of this, the proposed legislation makes the community less safe than it could, as it only deals with an endangering event (legal firearms entering the illegal realm) “after the horse has bolted”, and then only if the offenders are apprehended. A much safer option for the community would be to strictly limit the number of firearms that can be owned, and therefore ultimately stolen in any single event, in the first place. Any firearm can potentially be stolen, including those whose storage arrangements meet or exceed legal requirements.

I say a cap should be imposed as part of the proposed amendments and that this should mirror the proposals for NSW.

Lenah Valley

Redacted

Hi, thanks for providing me the chance to have a read through the proposed changes of the firearms act.

I am not opposed to any of the said changes, and I am happy for the penalties increasing for any theft of firearms also.

One thing that I think should be looked at is the use of suppressors.

Myself having done quite a lot of crop protection for farmers over the last 20 years have some notable hearing loss.

Yes hearing protection is an option but its not always practical either when communication is needed for safety when preforming crop protection.

A suppressor is no more then a piece of PPE and should be made available for hunters and it causes no more risk to the community in any way.

Thanks

Reda
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Redacted

No caps

No reclassification

No import restrictions

No increase in fees or license duration, it is not the license holders responsibility to pay for ineffective policy or state service

No to making compliant license holders comply with ANY further restrictions

No demonising license holders ever, the governments or media

Respect compliant license holders MORE than road users, MORE than the median customer to the public service

Redacted

Redacted

Good Morning,

I am taking the time to write my submission today because the changes being proposed to the current firearms laws in Tasmania are without ground. The changes seek to blame the most law-abiding part of the population for no reason. As an avid shooter and outdoorsmen, I constantly interact with other shooters and lovers of the outdoors. Every one of them is always hyper aware of being compliant with the current firearms laws as they don't want to lose the ability to own firearms.

I believe this mentality can be extended to all law-abiding firearms because I cannot remember an incident in recent history where a law-abiding firearms owner used his legal firearm to harm another person. Bondi is not an example of this as the shooters should never have been given access to firearms and it was a failure of the AFP and NSW police. By definition the shooters would not be categorised as law abiding firearms owners. These agencies have even acknowledged the fact that they failed to act on already existing legislation.

If there was an instance of a firearms owner committing a crime with their firearm then that person should be punished with the full extent of the law. The other 99% of law abiding firearms owners should NOT be punished for the actions of one. This mentality is not in accordance with the justice system we use in Tasmania. The same logic applies to reclassification of certain firearms.

Each proposed firearm type requires a distinct secondary action by the shooter to chamber another round (straight pull, button release, lever release and pump action). These firearms are NOT semi automatic and will never be as quick as a semi automatic. These firearms are also in no way more dangerous than any other firearm type that is not in question. These firearms are simply a tool and it is up to the operator to determine how they are used.

I completely support stronger vetting for people when obtain a firearms licence (if they are not citizens, have a history of offences or severe mental health problems) but am completely opposed to reclassifying currently legal firearms that are possessed by legal

owners who did not commit any offences. I also support mandatory prison time for firearm theft and illegal possession. But I believe the jail sentence should be closer to 5 years not 3 months.

When a drink driver crashes and kills someone we don't limit vehicle ownership or obtaining drivers licenses for everyone. The same logic applies to firearms. The real issues need to be addressed of weak punishment for law breakers and a rise of Islamic extremism.

Thank you, I hope you will take on board my submission and approach these issues with reason and logic.

Redacted

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this email in response to the proposed changes to gun laws.

I don't agree with any changes to the firearms laws, as a response to the Governments inability to enforce the laws that were already in effect

Now, if these laws were followed how they should have been with the Government Agencies, the correct information would have been passed on. Then the Terrorist who was living with another Terrorist, who was on a watch list, this Terrorist who was granted a firearm license, should never have been granted it in the first place.

Now, how the Government intends to fix this problem, is taking law abiding firearms owners guns away, to make the Community safe

But Instead of trying to fix the real problems of home grown Terrorist and Antisemitism and the sharing of information about people's background history or any known threat to the Community.

They want to take law abiding people's firearms away from them out of their safes where they're stored securely. These guns are not on the streets like they say, to try and scare the Community.

Now, if it was about Community safety, then we would never bring ISIS brides back Australia. How can this Government allow this and bring back Terrorist to this country.

The only changes to gun laws should be the sharing of Government Agencies information, and harsher penalties for criminals who have firearms or commit firearm related crimes.

No to GUN LIMITS

No to RECLASSIFICATION

No to ANY FIREARM CHANGES

Thank you.

Kindest regards,

Redacted

Redacted

To whom it may concern.

I understand the potential consequences for firearms getting in the hands of the wrong person but it is my understanding that the large majority of firearms owners are responsible in their ownership and do not pose any threat to the greater public.

It would seem that everyone is being impacted by mainly willingly unlawful people who seem to be able to access some sort of illegal firearm through what ever means.

It is my belief that people that have and are doing the right thing should not have any further restrictions placed upon them.

Regards,

Redacted

Sent from my iPhone

3rd August, 2026.

Re: Submission concerning the proposed **Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026**

To whom it may concern,

Please consider the following submission concerning the proposed Firearms Amendment Bill. This draft Bill is in three parts, one that seeks to impact firearms related crime, second, to align Tasmania's legislation with the proposed National Firearms Registry, and lastly, to place more restrictions on licenced firearms owners. While touching on the first two parts, most of this submission concerns itself with the latter.

Minimum sentencing

The section of the bill that imposes a minimum jail term for offences with, and theft, of firearms I broadly support. I have some reservation around mandatory sentencing as it diminishes the separation of the executive, parliament & the judiciary. If judges & magistrates are required direction from this Bill in passing sentence, then it may help deter firearms crime. I note that the Judiciary still has discretion in sentencing in extenuating circumstances.

Reclassifying straight pull & lever/button release firearms

The section that re categorises straight pull & button/lever release firearms to 'C' I strongly oppose. This will penalise legitimate firearms owners while having negligible impact on community safety. The cost of this measure, with five million dollars budgeted in Tasmania this year, will far outweigh any perceived safety dividend. As a firearms collector I am concerned that those with collectable 19th and 20th century firearms will be heavily impacted. While there is said to be provision for a person holding a firearm that transitions from category 'B' to 'C' to be exempted from the two firearm limit for cat. 'C' [10. (b) (c) Section 16 amended]. The signalling from Firearms Services at present is that this will not occur. Currently collectors wishing to add 7'C' to their licence are being blocked by firearms services.

Due to strong Federal and activist pressure, I do not think it is realistic to expect this provision to be removed from the Bill. To ensure collectors are not impacted by unintended consequences of this categorisation I suggest that:

(a) A person holding category 7, Collector, be eligible to add 'C' by default if already owning straight pull firearms, or if showing 'genuine reason' that they intend collecting these firearms. Alternatively, those who currently own a straight pull rifle in category 1, 2, or 3 who are also a collector, category 7, are 'grandfathered' and simply have category 'C' added to their licence if required.

(b) That there be a 'carve out' in the categorisation of straight pull firearms that exclude historical arms that are valued by collectors. This could either be dating them as in pre 1900 and 2000, or by their functionality. Historical straight pull firearms such as the Steyr

Mannlicher 1890/M95 (5 round stripper clip capacity), Schmidt-Rubin 1889/K31 (6 round en block clip) & Ross 1910 (5 round stripper clip) used integral box magazines of 5/6 rounds capacity. They required reloading either individually or by stripper/en block clip. There is already precedence for this in the proposed Bill. Part 9. (b) That restricts centre-fire rifles to detachable magazines of no more than 10 rounds. Rifles with integral magazines such as tubular magazine lever actions are excluded from this restriction. This is due to the inability to rapidly reload them. The same should apply to straight pull rifles with integral magazines such as the Mannlicher, Steyr, Schmidt-Rubin, and Ross.

Will the definition of straight pull firearm be strictly enforced? The Lee M1895 straight pull using a 5 round en block clip rifle should remain a category 'B' firearms with the definition that is used.

Magazine capacity limits

Part 8. Section 14 amended of the Bill places new restrictions on magazine capacity. Rimfire rifles are restricted to no more than 10, shotguns to 5, and centre-fire rifles to 10. While this provision will have little impact for competition shooters & hunters, I can see it hindering primary producers and those involved in pest destruction. The necessity to pause while reloading will reduce the efficacy of pest destruction with a rifle.

Rifle & shotgun magazines are a relatively expensive firearms accessory usually costing over \$100.00 each. As this Bill will restrict a number of magazines due to them being seen as a risk to public safety, then provision should be made to remove them from the community. The best way to ensure compliance with this is to include magazines in the proposed 'buy back'. Those owning newly prohibited magazines should have them bought by the State at current market value.

Some parts of this section seem ill considered. 7. Section 14 amended adds '... (1) A Category 'A' firearms licence applies to any-

(a) air rifle that-

(i) has a magazine capacity of not more than 10 rounds; and

(ii) is not self-loading...

As most PCP type air rifles use a magazine of over ten rounds capacity and they will not function without a magazine inserted, this effectively prohibits PCP air rifles or renders them unserviceable. Section 9. Category 'B' has a carve out for tubular magazines which is 9.(b)(i) '...has a detachable magazine with no more than 10 rounds...' The drafter of this section of the Bill must think this would also apply to PCP air rifles as well. If so, a Red Ryder BB gun that can hold up to 650 BBs remains Category 'A', while a PCP with 12 becomes a Category 'C'.

Proposed licence verification

The Bill anticipates an online licence verification system being established. The additional questions and answers document states that only information currently appearing on the firearms licence will be available. Who apart from firearms dealers will be able to access this information? With the requirement for those loaning a firearm to also be able to verify a licence, 37,000 or more licence holders will need to be able to view this information. If, as advised the licence details can be

accessed by entering a name, state and expiry date, then it may be misused to find out if someone owns firearms and what category they are. All that is needed it appears to get this information is a name, the assumption that we are in Tasmania, and a 'brute force' attack throwing in dates until an entry is found. If nothing comes up then one can assume no firearms, if there is a verified licence then firearms ownership is known and further information such as if they are centrefire or handguns.

Citizenship requirement

The section of the Bill relating to the requirement for Australian citizenship in granting a firearms licence is excessively restrictive. It makes the assumption that non-citizens per se are not 'fit and proper' persons. While the events at Bondi in December of last year exposed the risk element of non-citizen access to firearms, there should be ample control measures in determining 'fit and proper' person without implementing a near blanket prohibition on those not holding Australian citizenship. While there is a carve out for New Zealand citizens, this still restricts them to those showing a genuine reason for: primary production; animal population control; animal welfare; and business or employment. There appears to be no provision for New Zealand and other residents to engage in competitive shooting, hunting, or collecting. Subparagraph (E) of Section 28 permits consideration of another genuine reason. This is however vague and unclear as to the scope of this provision.

While Section 29 (1A) allows the Commissioner to exempt licence holders and applicant who are non-citizens from this restriction "...if the Commissioner is satisfied that it is reasonable in the circumstances for [(1)(ba)] to apply to the applicant" there is no guarantee that the Commissioner would in fact grant this exemption. Even if granted, Section 36A (5) allows the Commissioner to cancel an exemption at any time.

Storage of firearms outside of residential address

The current requirement is to notify Firearms Services of a change of address within 14 days. Section 46 amended changes this to providing notification 24 hours before moving. Failing this a licence holder must provide notification within 24 hours of a change of address. While this is intended to allow police to access up to date information on firearms locations, the prescribed punishment of 50 penalty points (\$10,650) and/or up to 2 years imprisonment is excessive for an administrative failure. This part of the Bill cannot be enacted until the proposed portal is fully operational, tested, and reliable. Currently the Firearms Act 1996 provides a 50 penalty point fine for this notification omission which is more than adequate.

When I changed my residential address a few years ago I was particular to comply with this licence condition. I used the prescribed form to notify Firearms Services of my new address in a timely manner as well as by email. Months later when a PTA application had not arrived I followed up with FAS as to the address they were using. They were still using my old address; the reply was that updating my details 'must have slipped through the cracks'. As a result of this failure I did not receive a storage inspection until months after I had moved. Clearly the current paper based system is flawed and the proposed portal will go a long way in keeping information current and correct.

With the proposed penalty of up to two years jail there must be ample protection for licence holders in case something 'slips through the cracks'. As well as the planned online portal there will need to be alternatives for those who do not have this option available to them. Loss of internet connectivity is not uncommon and without alternatives this should be a default protection from prosecution. The onus should be on Firearms Services to provide those notifying FAS of a change of details with a receipt. Simply entering details through an online portal would not alone give me confidence I could not face imprisonment. There must be a mechanism where a receipt number is provided or a PDF certificate of compliance is available.

Storage of firearms outside of home address – hunters, farmers, & competition shooters

Hunters and competitive shooters often leave their home address in pursuit of their sport. As an example, the Tasmanian Rifle Association February competition including the King's rifle match takes place over a number of days. Shooters will camp on the range or stay in nearby motels. Firearms are compliantly stored in their motor vehicles. The questions and answers document advises that a notification to FAS of a change 24 hours before departing is not required in this case. If however there is a change in circumstances and firearms need to go into an alternative storage location, the owner will have committed an offence entailing a \$10,650 fine as well as up to two years imprisonment. Circumstances where this can happen is if a shooter becomes sick or injured, their vehicle breaks down, or their firearm malfunctions and needs the attention of a gunsmith. An unintended consequence of this requirement is that firearms will remain in less secure vehicles rather than going to another shooter's approved gun safe. If say, a live round becomes stuck in a rifle's chamber, rather than taking what is an unsafe firearm to a gunsmith as required by range safety rules, the firearm will have to be returned to the storage address. To prevent fear of being fined and possibly imprisoned there must be a provision for unforeseen circumstances like the above. This will also need to account for the fact that ranges often do not have internet connectivity due to remote location and that most competitions take place on weekends. If police need to know the location of firearms to the nearest day, and with often an inability to access an online portal, FAS will need to remain open on Saturdays and Sundays.

Change of particulars

Section 57 amended seems in conflict with the above. When changing address 24 hours prior notice is required whereas "at least 7 days before" is wanted for changes in particulars on a licence.

Lending and borrowing firearms

The proposed addition to section 121 which is 121A, lays out conditions for lending or borrowing firearms. This should clear up the uncertainty at present where a person borrowing a firearm may be considered to be trafficking as the firearm is not registered under their name. While it is good to see this addressed, the strict conditions around lending and borrowing will deter all but a few from engaging in this practice. With the introduction of the planned portal it should be relatively straightforward to verify that another firearms owner's licence is current. It will be more difficult to ensure that the borrower's storage facilities are compliant. Will licence holders be issued a certificate of compliance of adequate storage for this purpose? What will deter most from loaning a firearm is that they must be satisfied that the borrower will comply with the storage requirements. This factor is out of their hands. How can they ensure the other party will not do something negligent in the

future? The lender literally trusts their life to the other person. If the borrower does the wrong thing they can face a \$10,650 fine and up to two years imprisonment. Under these conditions I would not accept the loan of a firearm or loan one myself. An unintended consequence of this change will be that without the opportunity to borrow a firearm for a particular task, people will need to purchase an additional firearm.

Caps on firearms numbers

The proposed part 121A (5) clearly anticipates caps on the number of firearms a person can hold. "For the avoidance of doubt, a firearm that is lent to another person is in the possession of that other person for the purposes of this Act including, but not limited to, the number of firearms that the other person may possess." As there is no limit to the number of firearms a person can possess (other than the PTA system), this can only apply to the limit of 10 firearms triggering the more stringent storage requirements such as alarm systems and CCTV cameras.

If 121A (5) does not cover the circumstance where a borrower has say 9 firearms and an additional one will require a storage upgrade (if they do not already have this), then this part can only be interpreted as anticipating individual caps on firearms numbers.

The necessities of a 'sunset clause' around the proposed Commonwealth 'buy back'

When the section of the bill that prescribes the 'buy back' of firearms commence, the State will incur a significant financial debit. The Federal Government has failed to meet their milestones for the implementation of a national buyback like that in 1996. While there is said to be ongoing negotiation at State & Federal level around the proposed 'buyback', nothing tangible has been presented to the public. With no information on critical things such as valuation of firearms, included accessories and ammunition, storage, transfer and destruction, and business compensation, it is very risky to proceed as is. In order to limit the possible financial harm to Tasmania there should be a 'sunset clause' stipulation on the 'buy back' elements. For instance, if from one year from the proclamation of the Bill there is no workable and fair Federal 'buy back' scheme, then these parts of the bill will lapse or expire. If this occurs, and firearms have been surrendered, they must be returned, and or compensation paid to owners and businesses.

Summary

While much of the proposed Bill seeks to bring consistency in wording of legislation between States and set the groundwork for a National Firearms Register, parts will have a direct effect on licenced firearms owners. On one hand shooters are told that these changes are not about further restricting them and about tackling criminal use of firearms. On the other hand there are measures that directly penalise licenced firearms owners.

Those who own straight pull and lever/button release firearms will most likely lose them. Collectors with straight pull rifles manufactured as far back as the 19th century will have to dispose of them. Those with 15 round rimfire magazines and similarly prohibited items will have to get rid of them. There is no buyback mechanism in place for this property. When changing address, licence holders will have to pre-empt their action and trust FAS to update their details, a failing in this process could see them jailed for up to two years. Similarly, those leaving their home with firearms for the purpose of hunting, farming, pest control, and competition shooting will need to be meticulous in their

actions. If circumstances arrive where the firearm/s need to be outside their immediate possession then they may face prosecution. Hunters and competition shooters who have been lawful for years will need to give up their firearms or take up Australian Citizenship if they do not have this. Most reasonable people will certainly think twice about loaning or borrowing a firearm given the significant risk they take. The passage of this Bill will encumber Tasmania with an expensive 'buy back' scheme while to date the Federal Government has not been forthcoming with any information on how this will occur.

I ask that you consider this Bill and the parts that will negatively impact licenced firearms owners as well as the unintended consequences of some sections.

Yours Sincerely,

A large black rectangular box with the word "Redacted" written in white, sans-serif font, centered within the box.

From: Redacted
Sent: Tuesday, 7 July 2026 11:15 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Submission - Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026

You don't often get email from Redacted [Learn why this is important](#)
To whom it may concern

I wish to make clear my views on certain elements of the proposed Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026.

The following subjects, detailed in the Consultation Information Sheet are of particular concern to me.

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

I flatly reject this amendment and demand that it be dropped entirely from the Bill. This amounts to a knee-jerk reaction by the Labor Government in order to cover for the incompetence of ASIO, the Australian Federal Police and Police department of NSW in regards to the tragic shooting at Bondi. There are functionally no other recorded significant incidents or misuse of the specified firearms in any jurisdiction, and it causes great offence to the law abiding firearms owners in this state to be penalised for what amounts to an isolated attack by radical Islamic terrorists, who should never have been allowed to obtain firearms. The incident would not have occurred had these agencies done their job properly. The Government is penalising the citizens for its own incompetence and I will not stand for it.

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.

Again, this amendment is borne of a knee-jerk reaction by the Labor Government over the events at Bondi. My view on this amendment is that the Government is too gutless to propose that we prohibit residents from specific countries from obtaining firearms licenses in this country, notably countries which produce Islamic extremists. I propose that if this amendment is to be implemented that it broadens the scope of exemption to nations which are kindred in nature of values to Australia, such as the United Kingdom, the USA, most European countries etc. Furthermore there should be no restriction to the genuine reason, as indeed the most popular reasons will be Recreational Hunting and Vermin control, and Sport and Target shooting and these should be preserved. Applications for an exemption should take into account any applicant who is a long term resident from any of the aforementioned countries, with good conduct and of good character and is of no concern regarding alignment to non-Australian values.

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.

I believe this amendment is well meaning but ultimately may result in unfair convictions for people at an extremely stressful and busy time such as moving house. It is not unreasonable under the circumstances of moving house that a person may forget to notify police. I propose that the period be lengthened, and also that if a police inspection is made and that all of the legislated storage requirements are met that no fine or conviction is issued, perhaps only a warning. It would only seem fair to me that any person failing to both notify police within the period and also fail to adhere to storage requirements be issued with penalties.

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

I reject this amendment as being an unnecessary overreach and demand it be removed from the Bill. Correlation between magazine capacity and firearms crime in Australia is practically not represented in the statistics at all, and any shooting involving a high number of shots from numerous magazines, even high capacity magazines, is likely limited only to Port Arthur.

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.

I believe the sentencing for being caught in possession of a stolen firearm or for stealing a firearm should be increased well above 3 months. This is a very small deterrent for what amounts to a very serious crime, and the Government should be sending a much tougher message to criminals that this behavior is not worth the risk. I suggest minimum 5 year sentencing for these crimes and higher again where the firearms are used in the commission of other crimes.

In closing I would like to remind that common sense has prevailed in QLD, NT and SA in regards to this legislation which is being pushed down from the Federal Labor Government, where they have rejected the re-classifications and buy backs etc. I strongly urge Tasmania to follow suit and drop these changes altogether as they simply amount to political agenda and are not grounded in evidence, facts or even strong public opinion.

I hope you find my comments valuable and take them into account. As a law-abiding Tasmanian firearms owner all I ask for is common sense and fair treatment.

Sincerely,

Redacted

From: Redacted
Sent: Saturday, 1 August 2026 7:53 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Submission – Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026

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

To the Strategy & Support Division,
Department of Police, Fire & Emergency Management

I wish to provide a submission in strong support of the Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026. These reforms are an essential step in strengthening Tasmania's firearm regulatory framework and improving community safety.

The Firearms Act 1996 has long provided the foundation for firearm regulation in Tasmania. The proposed amendments are both timely and necessary, particularly in preparing for the National Firearms Register (NFR) and responding to recent national incidents that highlight the need for improved real-time information and stronger safeguards.

I strongly support the amendments for the following reasons:

- The NFR will significantly enhance police and public safety by providing accurate, real-time national firearm data.
- Improved intelligence sharing will help prevent firearms from entering illicit markets and assist in identifying firearms linked to criminal activity.
- Reclassification and citizenship provisions demonstrate a responsible, nationally consistent approach to firearm ownership, with a buyback scheme being an appropriate mechanism to support affected licence holders.
- These reforms reflect a clear commitment to community safety and national alignment.

I encourage continued transparency, clear communication with licence holders, and strong collaboration with the Australian Government throughout the buyback process.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this consultation.

Kind regards,

Redacted

From: Redacted
Sent: Friday, 31 July 2026 9:05 PM
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 Sir/Madam,

Thank you for providing the opportunity to comment on the proposed **Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026**.

I am currently living and working in Tasmania and am in the process of obtaining Australian Permanent Residency. Tasmania has become my home, and I intend to continue living, working, and contributing to the community here for the long term. While I may choose to apply for Australian citizenship in the future, I respectfully believe that citizenship should not be the sole requirement for holding a firearms licence.

Throughout the time I have held my Tasmanian firearms licence, I have always complied with all legal requirements. I have maintained a clean record, followed all storage, transport and licensing obligations, and have always treated firearm ownership as a serious responsibility.

I support the Government's commitment to improving public safety and strengthening Tasmania's firearms licensing system. Responsible firearms ownership is important to both public confidence and community safety, and I agree that strict background checks, proper licensing and effective enforcement are essential.

However, I respectfully question whether Australian citizenship itself is an appropriate measure of a person's suitability to possess firearms.

The qualities that make someone a safe firearms owner are their character, their respect for the law, their compliance with licensing requirements, and their ongoing responsible conduct—not their citizenship status.

As someone who is building a long-term future in Tasmania, I pay taxes, contribute to the local community, and fully comply with Australian laws. I have demonstrated through my actions that I am a responsible firearms owner and a law-abiding member of the community.

I love Tasmania and hope to spend many years living here. Recreational shooting and hunting have become important parts of my life, and I hope to continue participating in these activities legally and responsibly.

I respectfully ask the Government to consider allowing non-citizens who lawfully reside in Australia, meet all suitability requirements, and have demonstrated a long history of responsible firearms ownership to remain eligible for a Tasmanian firearms licence.

Public safety is best served by assessing a person's conduct, suitability and compliance with the law, rather than citizenship status alone.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my submission.

Yours faithfully,

Redacted

From: Redacted
Sent: Friday, 3 July 2026 1:51 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Submission – Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026 Consultation

You don't often get email from Redacted [learn why this is important](#)
To whom it may concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026.

I am a licensed Tasmanian firearms owner and support sensible, evidence-based firearms regulation aimed at improving community safety and preventing access to firearms by criminals or prohibited persons. I support measures that strengthen enforcement against illegal firearm possession, trafficking, theft, and the diversion of firearms into the illicit market. I also support improvements that facilitate the implementation of the National Firearms Register and improve information sharing between jurisdictions.

However, I have significant concerns regarding the proposed reclassification of straight-pull and button/lever-release centre-fire and shotgun firearms.

My primary concern is that the consultation material does not clearly demonstrate how restricting firearms already owned by licensed and highly regulated firearms owners will deliver a measurable improvement in public safety. Tasmania's licensed firearms owners are already subject to licensing requirements, background checks, secure storage obligations, registration requirements, and ongoing police oversight. Before imposing further restrictions on specific firearm types, I believe the Government should present clear evidence demonstrating that these firearms have contributed to criminal offending in Tasmania at a level that justifies their reclassification.

The consultation material refers to community safety objectives arising from the National Firearms Register and events such as the Bondi attack. However, I am not aware of evidence showing that licensed owners of straight-pull or lever-release firearms in Tasmania pose a greater risk to public safety than owners of other legally held firearms. Any restrictions should be based on demonstrated risk rather than the appearance or operating mechanism of a firearm.

I am also concerned that the proposed changes will disproportionately affect lawful firearm owners who have acquired these firearms in good faith and in full compliance with Tasmanian law. Many owners purchased these firearms after obtaining the appropriate licences, completing all required checks, and investing substantial sums of money in equipment that was entirely lawful at the time of purchase. While the proposed buyback may provide compensation, it does not address the loss of choice and functionality experienced by legitimate sporting shooters and recreational users.

In my own case, the proposed changes would directly affect firearms that were legally purchased, safely stored, and responsibly used. Like many Tasmanian firearms owners, I have complied with every requirement imposed by legislation and have never presented any threat to public safety. The proposed reclassification feels less like a response to criminal misuse and more like a restriction on a group that has already demonstrated a high level of compliance.

I note that the Tasmanian Government has chosen not to impose firearm ownership caps as part of these reforms, recognising that responsible ownership cannot be measured simply by the number of firearms an individual owns. I believe the same principle should apply to firearm classifications. Regulatory decisions should focus on behaviour, compliance, and demonstrated risk rather than assumptions based on a particular action type.

I would encourage the Government to prioritise reforms that target criminal misuse of firearms, including unlawful possession, trafficking, theft, straw purchasing, and organised crime activity. These measures are far more likely to improve public safety than imposing additional restrictions on firearms already held by licensed and vetted owners.

Accordingly, I respectfully request that the proposed reclassification of straight-pull and button/lever-release firearms be reconsidered unless compelling evidence can be provided demonstrating a clear and measurable public safety benefit. If such evidence exists, it should be made publicly available as part of the consultation process so that stakeholders can provide informed feedback.

I appreciate the Government's willingness to consult with the community and thank you for considering my submission.

Yours faithfully,

Redacted

From:

Redacted

Sent:

Thursday, 6 August 2026 2:25 PM

To:

Submissions.Strategy.Support

Subject:

Submission - Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026

Attachments:

Firearms Amendment Submission.pdf

[You don't often get email from
<https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSen>

Redacted

Learn why this is important at

Dear Strategy and Support,

Please find attached my submission for consideration regarding the proposed Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026.

Thank you for considering my views as part of the consultation process.

Kind regards,

Redacted

Sent from my iPhone

Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026

Prepared in response to the Tasmanian Government consultation

NAME

Redacted

LOCATION

Hobart

EMAIL

Redacted

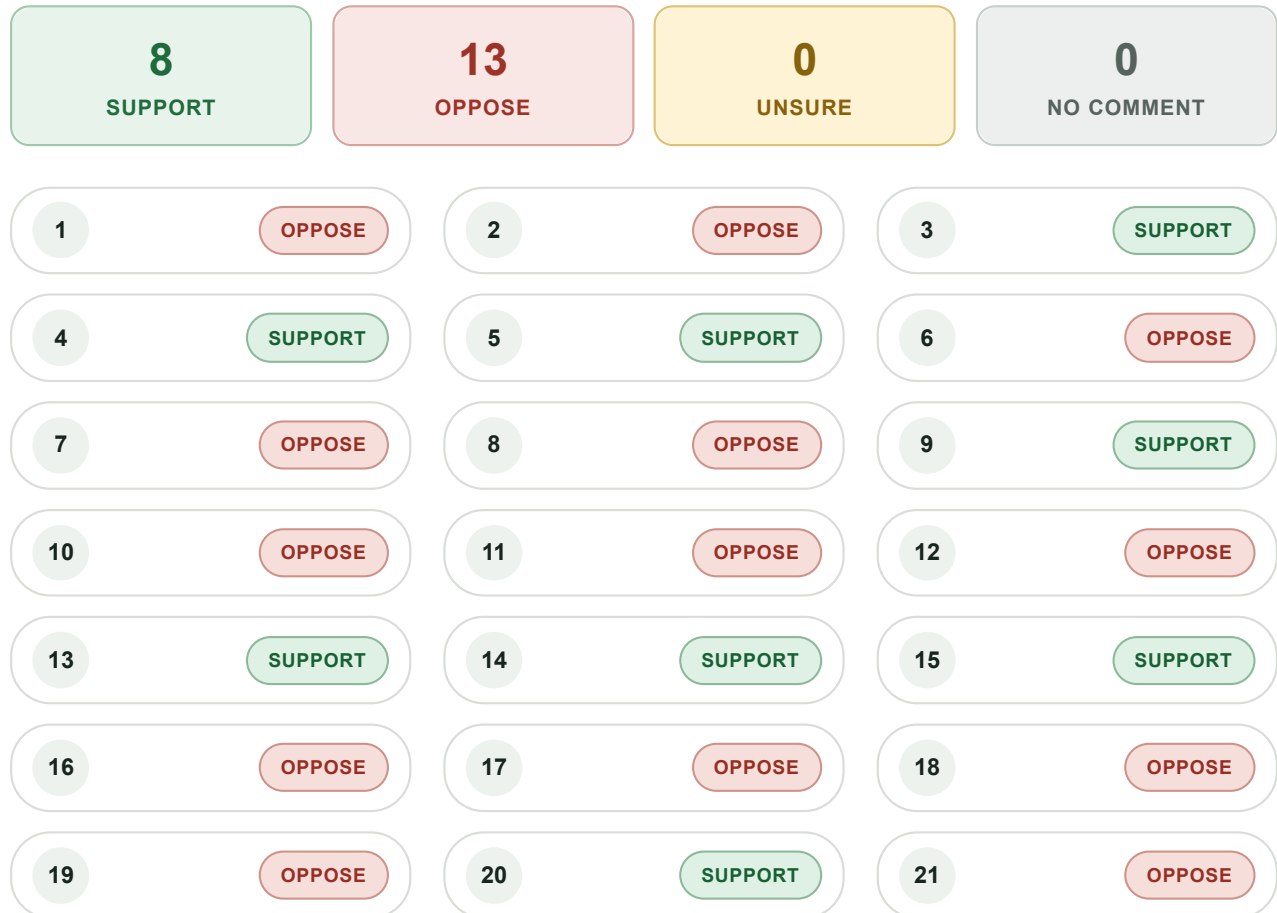
BACKGROUND OR INTEREST

Firearms license holder, Hunter, shooter, gun club shooter and have spent my life in the bush it's in my blood

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Submission summary

Overall, this submission supports 8 amendments, opposes 13, is unsure about 0, and records no comment on 0.



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

- Better theft-prevention measures.
- More targeted enforcement against unlawful possession.

AMENDMENT 2

Australian citizenship as the default firearms-licensing requirement

OPPOSE

Concerns that have been raised

- Exemption decisions may create uncertainty or inconsistent outcomes.
- Current licensed firearm owners who are not Australian citizens may lose their firearms licence and may no longer be able to lawfully possess their firearms unless they qualify for an exemption or are protected by a transition arrangement.

Suggested alternatives

- Better theft-prevention measures.
- More targeted enforcement against unlawful possession.

AMENDMENT 3

Restriction on on-lending firearms

SUPPORT

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

Verification of borrower licence and storage

SUPPORT

Reasons given in support

- It promotes responsible lending and lawful storage.

AMENDMENT 5

Nationally consistent firearm terminology

SUPPORT

Reasons given in support

- Modern definitions can reduce confusion.

AMENDMENT 6

Clarification of firearm and firearm-part definitions

OPPOSE

Suggested alternatives

- Better theft-prevention measures.
- More targeted enforcement against unlawful possession.

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.
- Repeated notifications may create administrative burden without improving physical security.

Suggested alternatives

- Better theft-prevention measures.
- More targeted enforcement against unlawful possession.

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.

Suggested alternatives

- Better theft-prevention measures.
- More targeted enforcement against unlawful possession.

AMENDMENT 9

Expanded authority for firearms dealer employees

SUPPORT

Reasons given in support

- Licensed and vetted employees could handle routine transactions.

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

- Better theft-prevention measures.
- More targeted enforcement against unlawful possession.

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.

Suggested alternatives

- Better theft-prevention measures.
- More targeted enforcement against unlawful possession.

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.
- Safeguards are needed against arbitrary or unnecessarily intrusive demands.

Suggested alternatives

- Better theft-prevention measures.
- More targeted enforcement against unlawful possession.

AMENDMENT 13

Possession of stolen firearms offence and penalty

SUPPORT

Reasons given in support

- Clear offence elements can improve consistent prosecution.
- The change targets unlawful possession rather than licensed ownership.

AMENDMENT 14

Alternative conviction for possession of stolen firearms

SUPPORT

Reasons given in support

- Alternative verdicts can improve court efficiency.

AMENDMENT 15

Summary trial option for unlawful firearms trafficking

SUPPORT

Reasons given in support

- It may reduce higher-court delay and cost.

AMENDMENT 16

New summary offence of stealing a firearm or firearm part

OPPOSE

Concerns that have been raised

- Serious thefts should not be inappropriately downgraded.
- Penalty levels should reflect culpability and actual risk.

Suggested alternatives

- Better theft-prevention measures.
- More targeted enforcement against unlawful possession.

AMENDMENT 17

Expansion of firearm prohibition orders

OPPOSE

Concerns that have been raised

- The definition of firearm part must be precise and proportionate.

Suggested alternatives

- Better theft-prevention measures.
- More targeted enforcement against unlawful possession.

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.
- Secure storage and theft prevention may better address diversion risk.

Suggested alternatives

- Better theft-prevention measures.
- More targeted enforcement against unlawful possession.

AMENDMENT 19

Updated identification requirements for licence applications

OPPOSE

Concerns that have been raised

- Requirements should remain accessible to people without standard documents.

Suggested alternatives

- Better theft-prevention measures.
- More targeted enforcement against unlawful possession.

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

OPPOSE

Concerns that have been raised

- Cybersecurity, outages, backups and access controls must be addressed.
- The system should avoid duplicate paper and electronic reporting.

Suggested alternatives

- Better theft-prevention measures.
- More targeted enforcement against unlawful possession.

Further suggestions

- Prioritise theft prevention, secure storage and enforcement against unlawful possession before imposing broad reclassifications on lawful owners.
- Separate broadly supported administrative and criminal-law reforms from contentious firearm reclassification proposals.
- 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.

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.

From: Redacted
Sent: Friday, 7 August 2026 9:17 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 opposition to the proposed Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026.

I support strong and effective firearm laws and believe that anyone who owns a firearm has a responsibility to comply with those laws, maintain appropriate storage and ensure firearms cannot fall into the wrong hands.

However, I am concerned that these proposed amendments place further restrictions on people who are already licensed, registered and compliant, without adequately demonstrating that the changes will improve community safety.

Australia already has a highly regulated firearm framework. Licensed owners are subject to background checks, licensing requirements, registration, storage requirements and ongoing compliance obligations.

If someone steals a firearm, illegally possesses one or uses one to commit a crime, they should face serious consequences. That is where I believe government resources should be concentrated.

There is a significant difference between a person who deliberately uses a firearm to commit violence and a responsible firearm owner who complies with every requirement placed upon them.

Changing classifications and imposing additional restrictions on compliant owners does not necessarily address the underlying problem of criminal misuse.

I believe the Government should first demonstrate clear evidence that these additional restrictions will materially improve community safety before imposing them on people who have done nothing wrong.

I am particularly concerned about the proposed expansion of firearm information through the National Firearms Register.

I understand that the purpose is to improve information sharing between law-enforcement agencies and that it is not intended to be publicly accessible.

Nevertheless, the proposed ability to maintain near-real-time information about where firearms are stored creates a significant cybersecurity and privacy concern.

A database containing information about firearm owners, the number of firearms they possess and where those firearms are stored would be highly sensitive. If compromised, that information could potentially provide criminals with a valuable roadmap to lawful firearm owners and their firearms.

The recent Coles Bay incident is a clear example of why this information needs to be treated with extreme caution. A firearm owner was reportedly assaulted and forced to disclose the location of his firearms safe, after which firearms were stolen.

The broader issue is that government systems are not immune to cyberattacks or data breaches. Australians have seen numerous examples of sensitive information being compromised from organisations that were expected to protect it.

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 am not opposed to reasonable firearm regulation. I am opposed to regulation that increasingly burdens responsible owners without clear evidence that it will address criminal behaviour.

I support:

- strong penalties for firearm theft and illegal possession;
- effective intelligence sharing between law-enforcement agencies;
- prompt action where an individual becomes unsuitable to possess firearms;
- proper enforcement of existing storage and licensing requirements; and
- targeted measures that address people who pose a genuine risk to the community.

I do not support measures that effectively punish responsible firearm owners for the actions of criminals.

My wife has firearms including those proposed to be reclassified such as straight-pull firearms, that were lawfully inherited from her father who passed away at only 60. They have significant sentimental value to her and represent a connection to her father that cannot be replaced financially.

We are now married and looking toward starting a family. I understand personally why preserving that connection matters to her and why the Government should carefully consider the consequences of legislation that could force responsible people to surrender lawfully inherited property.

Firearm laws should protect the community while also recognising the rights and responsibilities of people who comply with them.

I respectfully ask the Government to reconsider the proposed amendments and ensure that any changes are proportionate, evidence-based and genuinely targeted at reducing criminal access to firearms.

Yours sincerely,

Redacted

From: Redacted
Sent: Thursday, 6 August 2026 6:17 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Submission — Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026

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

To the Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management,

RE: Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026 — consultation submission

I am a licensed firearm owner in Redacted writing about the consultation version of the Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill.

Tasmanian gun laws are right as they are, as a licenced firearm owner who volunteers for the government as a Tasmanian fire brigade chief and have the highest respect for the police and laws I am tired of being penalised and restricted in my chosen hobby/recreation.

I do not support any changes to the current laws, it should not matter if I have 1 correctly stored firearm or 100, if they are stolen from my home I am the victim not the criminal, the government needs to get tough on crime.

I support the one part of this Bill that genuinely targets criminals — the stronger penalties for stealing or possessing a stolen firearm. That is where firearm-related harm actually comes from. The rest of this Bill targets licensed, police-checked owners instead, and I ask that it not proceed in its current form.

My core concern is that the Bill aims public-safety effort at the wrong target. Licensed owners are police-checked and every registered firearm is already visible to government. The real risk lies with illegal and stolen firearms, criminal networks, organised crime and high-risk individuals — none of which this Bill touches. We already know that legislating against licensed owners will not make Tasmanians safer. The Government's effort and resources should be directed there instead.

I oppose reclassifying straight-pull and button/lever-release firearms to Category C. These are owned lawfully by police-checked Tasmanians for hunting, sport and pest control, and no Tasmanian evidence has been published showing they feature in crime. Law-abiding owners would be forced to surrender property they bought in good faith.

The associated buyback is confiscation of lawful property the State cannot afford. The Government's own earlier estimate for a broader scheme was around \$20 million — money that would have to be borrowed on top of a \$596.7 million deficit and net debt heading toward \$10 billion. It should not proceed: it takes nothing away from the illegal market and makes no one safer.

As a matter of public finance alone this scheme is indefensible. Tasmania is forecasting a \$596.7 million deficit with net debt heading toward \$10 billion, and now spends more servicing that debt than on police, fire and emergency services. Spending further millions buying lawful firearms from

police-checked owners — with no gain in community safety — is a priority the State plainly cannot afford.

I oppose signing Tasmania up to the National Firearms Register. It is a costly database that tracks the firearms, licences and personal details of law-abiding owners — not criminals, who never register anything. It creates a serious data-security and privacy risk, and diverts money and police effort away from the illegal firearms that actually threaten the community.

The proposed detachable-magazine limits would restrict equipment that farmers and sporting shooters already use lawfully, while doing nothing about the illegal firearms behind actual crime.

The proposed citizenship and residency requirements would exclude lawful permanent residents who have already passed the same police checks as every other licence holder — punishing people who have done everything right, with no benefit to community safety.

The new lending, storage-location and notification obligations pile administration onto compliant owners, and do nothing to change the behaviour of people who already ignore the law.

I therefore ask that the Bill not proceed in its current form; that the Government stop targeting law-abiding, licensed owners; and that police resources and funding be directed instead to the illegal firearms, criminal networks and organised crime behind actual gun violence — not to a scheme this State cannot afford and which will not make the community safer. I also ask that the Government rule out any arbitrary cap on lawful ownership.

Thank you for considering this submission.

Redacted

Sent from my iPhone

From:

Redacted

Sent:

Tuesday, 7 July 2026 2:17 PM

To:

Submissions.Strategy.Support

Subject:

Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026

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Hi

Redacted

[Learn why this is important](#)

I support the restriction of straight pull and button action centerfire rifles to Cat C.

I do not support caps on firearm numbers that an individual can hold as there are many lawful and reasonable reasons a non-farmer can have more than 5 firearms, similarly as there are good reasons a farmer may need more than 10.

Further, I request that suppressors be allowed in the use of centerfire deer hunting rifles. Noise suppressors reduced the risk of hearing damage to the gun user, reduce the noise trauma delivered to non-target farm animals and would allow for more effective removal of deer mobs which tend to scatter after the first shot.

Regards

Redacted

Redacted

Dear Tasmanian government

I am writing to express my support for maintaining the current firearms laws that allow responsible, licensed firearm owners to assist farmers with essential vermin and wildlife management in Tasmania.

I have personally helped farmers with controlling kangaroos, wallabies, and deer where they have caused significant damage to crops, pasture, and fencing. I have seen firsthand the financial impact these animals can have on farming operations when their numbers are not properly managed. Responsible firearm owners provide an important service by helping landholders protect their livelihoods while ensuring that pest and overabundant wildlife are managed as humanely and effectively as possible.

The current firearms licensing system already requires strict background checks, licensing, safe storage, and responsible firearm use. These laws ensure that firearms remain in the hands of suitable people while allowing legitimate pest control work to continue. Introducing further restrictions would make it more difficult for farmers to access the assistance they need and could lead to increased crop losses and greater economic pressure on Tasmania's agricultural sector.

I believe it is important that any future review of firearms legislation recognises the vital role that responsible, licensed shooters play in supporting farmers and managing wildlife populations. Maintaining practical and balanced firearms laws will help protect both public safety and the viability of our farming communities.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my views. I appreciate your commitment to representing the interests of Tasmania's rural communities and hope you will continue to support sensible firearms legislation that recognises the needs of farmers and those who assist them.

Yours sincerely,

From:

Redacted

Sent:

Tuesday, 7 July 2026 1.40 PM

To:

Submissions.Strategy.Support

Subject:

National Firearms Register.

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Redacted

[learn why this is important](#)

To Whom it may Concern,

I am in support of a National Firearms Register. However I believe that the cost should not be wholly paid for by licensed firearm owners.

I also believe that there should not be any caps on how many firearms a licensed owner can store or use, provided that there is suitable storage.

I also believe that noise suppressors should not be part of a firearm as it is part of noise abatement. I believe that the United Kingdom has recently taken this step. Suppressors definitely do not silence a firearm, they only reduce the noise as a firearm is activated.

my submission.

Redacted

7 Jul 2026

From: Redacted
Sent: Friday, 3 July 2026 6:43 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: No firearms amendments

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How is this actually supposed to help at this point it's only going to make people buy illegal firearms because it will be easier to purchase a semiautomatic pistol than it will be to get a straight pull shotgun if the reclassification goes through, and it was also proven that the current laws weren't at fault during the Bondi attack. Wouldn't it be worth focusing on the actual Issue instead of punishing law abiding firearms owners and tax payers.

From:

Redacted

Sent:

Friday, 3 July 2026 6:43 PM

To:

Submissions.Strategy.Support

Subject:

No firearms amendments

You don't often get email from Redacted [by this is important](#)

How is this actually supposed to help at this point it's only going to make people buy illegal firearms because it will be easier to purchase a semiautomatic pistol than it will be to get a straight pull shotgun if the reclassification goes through, and it was also proven that the current laws weren't at fault during the Bondi attack. Wouldn't it be worth focusing on the actual Issue instead of punishing law abiding firearms owners and tax payers.

From: Redacted
Sent: Thursday, 6 August 2026 3:57 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Submission – Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026

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

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the consultation package for the Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026.

I do not oppose legislative reform. My concern is that the consultation package does not provide sufficient information for the public to meaningfully assess several significant proposals.

The consultation material describes what is proposed, but it does not adequately explain:

- the evidence supporting the proposed changes;
- why these particular reforms have been chosen instead of other options;
- how each proposal is expected to improve public safety in Tasmania;
- the anticipated financial and administrative impacts; or
- how the success of each proposal will be measured after implementation.

These are fundamental matters that should be addressed in a public consultation. Without this information, the community is being asked to comment on significant legislative changes without being given the evidence or justification needed to properly evaluate them.

This concern applies to the proposed firearm reclassification, the National Firearms Register, electronic licence verification, the proposed citizenship requirements, and the compensation and buyback arrangements.

If further reforms are proposed during the parliamentary process that were not included in the published consultation package—for example, proposals relating to firearm ownership caps or other significant new restrictions—they should be the subject of separate public consultation. Changes of that nature may have broad practical impacts on lawful licence holders and the wider community, and stakeholders should have a genuine opportunity to consider and comment on them before they are debated by Parliament.

Meaningful public consultation requires more than outlining proposed legislative changes. It should explain why the changes are proposed, the evidence supporting them, the outcomes they are intended to achieve, and how Government will determine whether those outcomes have been achieved.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Kind regards,

Redacted

From:

Redacted

Sent:

Wednesday, 5 August 2026 5:27 AM

To:

Submissions.Strategy.Support

Subject:

Submission — Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026

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Redacted

[why this is important](#)

To the Department of

Emergency Management,

RE: Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026 — consultation submission

I am a licensed firearm owner in St Helens, writing about the consultation version of the Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026.

We are the most Highly regulated group of people and most dont understand the process we have to go through to purchase firearms.

I support the one part of this Bill that genuinely targets criminals — the stronger penalties for stealing or possessing a stolen firearm. That is where firearm-related harm actually comes from. The rest of this Bill targets licensed, police-checked owners instead, and I ask that it not proceed in its current form.

My core concern is that the Bill aims public-safety effort at the wrong target. Licensed owners are police-checked and every registered firearm is already visible to government. The real risk lies with illegal and stolen firearms, criminal networks, organised crime and high-risk individuals — none of which this Bill touches. We already know that legislating against licensed owners will not make Tasmanians safer. The Government's effort and resources should be directed there instead.

The associated buyback is confiscation of lawful property the State cannot afford. The Government's own earlier estimate for a broader scheme was around \$20 million — money that would have to be borrowed on top of a \$596.7 million deficit and net debt heading toward \$10 billion. It should not proceed: it takes nothing away from the illegal market and makes no one safer.

As a matter of public finance alone this scheme is indefensible. Tasmania is forecasting a \$596.7 million deficit with net debt heading toward \$10 billion, and now spends more servicing that debt than on police, fire and emergency services. Spending further millions buying lawful firearms from police-checked owners — with no gain in community safety — is a priority the State plainly cannot afford.

I oppose signing Tasmania up to the National Firearms Register. It is a costly database that tracks the firearms, licences and personal details of law-abiding owners — not criminals, who never register anything. It creates a serious data-security and privacy risk, and diverts money and police effort away from the illegal firearms that actually threaten the community.

The proposed detachable-magazine limits would restrict equipment that farmers and sporting shooters already use lawfully, while doing nothing about the illegal firearms behind actual crime.

I therefore ask that the Bill not proceed in its current form; that the Government stop targeting law-abiding, licensed owners; and that police resources and funding be directed instead to the illegal firearms, criminal networks and organised crime behind actual gun violence — not to a scheme this State cannot afford and which will not make the community safer. I also ask that the Government rule out any arbitrary cap on lawful ownership.

Thank you for considering this submission.

Redacted

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From: Redacted
Sent: Tuesday, 4 August 2026 9:05 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Submission - Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026

You don't often get email from Redacted [arn why this is important](#)
Dear Strategy and Support,

Please find attached my submission for consideration regarding the proposed Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026.

Thank you for considering my views as part of the consultation process.

SUBMISSION REGARDING THE FIREARMS AMENDMENT (MISCELLANEOUS) BILL 2026

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

I have reviewed the proposed amendments and provide the following individual submission.

ABOUT ME

Redacted

Background or interest: Licensed firearm owner/ Primary producer

AMENDMENT 1

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

Position: Oppose

Concerns 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.

AMENDMENT 2

Australian citizenship as the default firearms-licensing requirement

Position: Support

Reasons given in support:

- Defined exemptions may preserve access for specific employment or primary-production needs.

AMENDMENT 3

Restriction on on-lending firearms

Position: Support

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

Verification of borrower licence and storage

Position: Oppose

Concerns raised:

- A lender should not be exposed to liability for information they could not reasonably verify.

AMENDMENT 5

Nationally consistent firearm terminology

Position: Unsure

Reasons for remaining unsure:

- I need more evidence or detail before deciding.

AMENDMENT 6

Clarification of firearm and firearm-part definitions

Position: Oppose

Concerns raised:

- The exact expert advice and intended scope should be published.

AMENDMENT 7

Notification of storage away from the owner's residence

Position: Oppose

Concerns 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

Position: Oppose

Concerns raised:

- Unexpected separation, housing loss, emergencies or settlement changes may make advance notice impossible.

AMENDMENT 9

Expanded authority for firearms dealer employees

Position: Support

Reasons given in support:

- Licensed and vetted employees could handle routine transactions.

AMENDMENT 10

Seven-day Tasmanian licence application for new interstate residents

Position: Support

Reasons given in support:

- A shorter period may keep Tasmanian records current.

AMENDMENT 11

Advance notice of changes in personal particulars

Position: Oppose

Concerns raised:

- Many personal changes are not known seven days in advance.

AMENDMENT 12

Production of firearms for police inspection

Position: Oppose

Concerns raised:

- Requests should require a clear lawful basis and reasonable time for compliance.

AMENDMENT 13

Possession of stolen firearms offence and penalty

Position: 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

Position: Support

Reasons given in support:

- It may avoid a complete acquittal where serious proven conduct falls short of trafficking.

AMENDMENT 15

Summary trial option for unlawful firearms trafficking

Position: Oppose

Concerns raised:

- Serious trafficking conduct may warrant the safeguards and sentencing powers of a higher court.

AMENDMENT 16

New summary offence of stealing a firearm or firearm part

Position: Support

Reasons given in support:

- It recognises the particular danger associated with stolen firearms.

AMENDMENT 17

Expansion of firearm prohibition orders

Position: Oppose

Concerns raised:

- The definition of firearm part must be precise and proportionate.

AMENDMENT 18

Magazine ammunition-capacity limits for Category A and B firearms

Position: Oppose

Concerns 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.

AMENDMENT 19

Updated identification requirements for licence applications

Position: Support

Reasons given in support:

- Modern identity standards may reduce fraud.

AMENDMENT 20

Three-month mandatory minimum imprisonment for stolen-firearm offences

Position: 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

Position: Support

Reasons given in support:

- Digital records support timely National Firearms Register updates.

FURTHER SUGGESTIONS

- Require all firearm safes to be securely affixed to the floor and/or wall.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Kind regards,

Redacted

From: Redacted
Sent: Tuesday, 4 August 2026 9:17 PM
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 Strategy and Support team,

Please accept the following as my submission regarding the proposed Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026.

I am a Tasmanian resident, primary producer and lawful firearms owner. I oppose provisions in the Bill that impose further restrictions, costs and administrative burdens on responsible firearms licence holders without clear evidence that those measures will produce a meaningful improvement in public safety.

I support stronger action against people who steal firearms, knowingly possess stolen firearms, unlawfully traffic firearms, possess firearms while prohibited, or participate in organised criminal activity involving firearms.

These are the people Tasmania's firearms laws should principally target.

Lawful firearms owners are already subject to background checks, genuine-reason requirements, registration, secure-storage obligations, permit-to-acquire requirements, licence conditions and police oversight. Those who comply with these requirements should not continually be treated as potential criminals simply because they own or use firearms.

Farmers, hunters, sporting shooters, collectors and professional pest controllers may require different firearms for different legitimate purposes. A firearm suitable for humane livestock destruction may not be suitable for crop protection, deer control, competition shooting or pest management.

The number or appearance of firearms owned by a person does not, by itself, establish that the person is dangerous. The important questions should be whether the person is fit and proper, has a genuine reason, stores the firearms securely, complies with the law and is subject to any credible information indicating an actual risk.

Reclassification of straight-pull and button or lever-release firearms

I oppose the proposed reclassification of straight-pull and button or lever-release centre-fire rifles and shotguns to Category C.

Before imposing this change, the Government should publicly provide:

- Tasmanian crime statistics showing how often these firearm types have been used in criminal offending;
- evidence that licensed owners of these firearms present a greater risk than owners of conventional bolt-action or lever-action firearms;
- an independent technical assessment comparing their operation with other lawful firearms;
- evidence that reclassification would prevent organised criminals from obtaining illegal firearms; and
- a proper cost-benefit analysis of the proposed buyback.

These firearms still require a deliberate manual action by the user before another shot can be fired. They do not become self-loading firearms simply because their operating mechanisms differ from a traditional rotating bolt.

Policy should not be based on the appearance of a firearm, political pressure or theoretical claims about its rate of operation. It should be based on evidence of actual misuse and demonstrated public risk.

The proposed reclassification should be withdrawn unless the Government can produce clear and independently reviewed evidence that these firearms present a distinct and substantial danger in Tasmania.

At a minimum, existing owners should be permitted to retain lawfully acquired firearms under grandfathering arrangements, subject to their existing licensing, registration and storage obligations.

Magazine restrictions

I also oppose reducing the existing limit for certain detachable magazines from 15 rounds to 10 rounds without evidence that the change will materially reduce firearm crime.

Consistency with another jurisdiction is not, by itself, proof that a restriction is necessary or effective.

Before imposing this limit, the Government should disclose:

- how many Tasmanian crimes have involved lawfully owned magazines with capacities between 10 and 15 rounds;
- whether offenders involved in firearm crime comply with existing magazine restrictions;

- whether the proposal would have any effect on access to illegal or unlawfully modified magazines; and
- the financial cost and inconvenience imposed on people who purchased their equipment legally.

Lawful owners should not be forced to surrender, replace or modify property merely to achieve administrative uniformity between jurisdictions.

Administrative obligations and technical offences

The Bill introduces additional obligations concerning storage locations, changes of address, firearm lending, licence verification and firearm inspections.

Maintaining accurate records is reasonable. However, the law must distinguish between deliberate evasion and an innocent administrative error.

A farmer, hunter or rural worker should not risk prosecution because of an unexpected overnight stay, poor internet access, an emergency involving livestock, temporary storage with another licensed person, or an inadvertent delay in updating personal details.

Any new notification offence should require that the failure was deliberate or unreasonable. There should be reasonable timeframes and clear defences where circumstances were beyond the licence holder's control.

Similarly, a person lending a firearm should be required to take reasonable steps to confirm that the borrower is appropriately licensed and able to store the firearm legally. However, the lender should not become legally responsible if the borrower subsequently provides false information or fails to comply with their own obligations.

Target criminals rather than lawful owners

The Government should direct substantially more resources towards:

- investigating targeted firearm thefts;
- identifying the criminal market for stolen firearms;
- recovering firearms already circulating illegally;
- disrupting organised criminal networks;
- prosecuting unlawful firearm manufacture and trafficking;
- enforcing firearm prohibition orders;

- improving intelligence sharing between jurisdictions; and
- ensuring that repeat and organised offenders receive meaningful penalties.

I support provisions that increase penalties for possessing stolen firearms, create specific offences for stealing firearms or firearm parts, and strengthen action against people who traffic stolen firearms.

These provisions address actual criminal conduct and should be considered separately from proposals that primarily affect compliant licence holders.

The Government should publish regular statistics showing:

- the number of stolen firearms recovered;
- the number of illegal firearms seized;
- the source of firearms used in serious offending;
- the number of prosecutions for trafficking and possession of stolen firearms;
- the sentences imposed on offenders; and
- the proportion of firearm offences committed by licensed and unlicensed people.

Without this information, Tasmanians cannot properly assess whether additional restrictions on licensed owners are directed at the real causes of firearm crime.

Security of firearms-register information

The Tasmanian and National Firearms Registers contain extraordinarily sensitive information, including the identities and addresses of firearms owners and information about the firearms stored at particular locations.

If this information is improperly accessed or disclosed, it could effectively become a shopping list for criminals.

There have been longstanding concerns within the firearms community about inappropriate access to police information and the security of firearms-register data. Whether or not every allegation made in the past has been substantiated, those concerns demonstrate the need for transparency, independent oversight and strong safeguards.

The Government cannot demand increasing amounts of personal information from firearms owners without accepting an equally strong responsibility to protect that information.

Before Tasmanian information is transferred to or accessed through the National Firearms Register, the Government should guarantee:

- strict role-based access controls;
- complete recording of every search, access and alteration;
- automatic identification of unusual or unauthorised access;
- regular independent security audits;
- serious penalties for deliberate misuse of registry information;
- prompt notification to affected firearms owners when their information may have been compromised;
- independent investigation of alleged misuse; and
- public reporting of unauthorised-access complaints and their outcomes.

Firearms owners are expected to comply with strict storage and reporting requirements. Government agencies should be held to an equally strict standard when storing and accessing information that could endanger those owners if it were improperly disclosed.

Consultation with experienced firearms users

Firearms policy should not be driven by political affiliation, emotional reaction, media pressure or people who have little practical understanding of firearms and their legitimate use.

Technical decisions should involve people with direct experience, including:

- farmers and primary producers;
- recreational hunters;
- sporting shooters and firearm clubs;
- firearm dealers and gunsmiths;
- professional pest controllers;
- firearm-safety instructors;
- mechanical and technical experts;
- rural police officers; and

- representatives of licensed firearm owners.

Phillip Bigg and other firearms representatives have publicly raised the concern that lawful firearms owners are repeatedly targeted while insufficient attention is given to illegal firearm possession, theft and trafficking.

Whether or not the Government agrees with every view expressed by firearms organisations, it should recognise that people with years of practical firearms experience are entitled to meaningful involvement in the development of laws that directly affect them.

Consultation should involve more than presenting a largely completed proposal and allowing a limited period for written responses. The evidence relied upon should be released, alternative approaches should be considered, regional meetings should be held and the Government should formally respond to the major concerns raised by affected people.

Citizenship provisions

The Bill also proposes to make Australian citizenship the default eligibility requirement, subject to limited exemptions.

Firearms eligibility should principally be determined by residency, identity verification, background checks, genuine reason and whether the applicant is a fit and proper person.

A lawful permanent resident who has lived and worked in Tasmania for many years may present no greater risk than an Australian citizen. Citizenship alone is not proof of good character.

Any citizenship restriction should therefore be supported by evidence of a specific deficiency in the existing background-checking system rather than introduced as a symbolic measure.

Recommendations

I request that the Tasmanian Government:

1. Proceed with stronger provisions targeting firearm theft, possession of stolen firearms, illegal trafficking and prohibited offenders.
2. Withdraw the proposed reclassification of straight-pull and button or lever-release firearms unless an independent and publicly available risk assessment demonstrates a clear need.
3. Grandfather all affected firearms that have already been lawfully acquired and registered.
4. Abandon additional magazine restrictions unless evidence of their likely effectiveness in Tasmania is published.

5. Ensure new notification and lending obligations contain reasonable timeframes, protections for honest mistakes and appropriate statutory defences.
6. Separate criminal-enforcement provisions from restrictions affecting lawful owners so that Parliament can consider each category on its merits.
7. Establish a permanent firearms advisory body with meaningful representation from experienced firearm users, farmers, hunters, sporting organisations, dealers and technical specialists.
8. Require independent auditing and public accountability for the security and use of firearms-register information.
9. Publish detailed evidence concerning the source of firearms used in Tasmanian crime and the results of enforcement action against illegal firearms.
10. Base future firearms policy on demonstrated risk, technical evidence and measurable public-safety outcomes rather than political pressure or assumptions about lawful firearms owners.

Conclusion

Responsible firearms owners are not asking to be exempt from reasonable laws. They are asking for laws that are rational, proportionate, technically informed and directed at demonstrated risks.

A person who steals, traffics or knowingly possesses a stolen firearm has made a deliberate decision to engage in serious criminal conduct.

A farmer, hunter, collector or sporting shooter who obtains a licence, registers their firearms, complies with storage requirements and follows the law has made the opposite decision.

The Government should recognise that distinction.

Public safety will not be improved merely by imposing more restrictions on people whose names, addresses and firearms are already known to police. Lasting improvements will come from disrupting criminal networks, recovering illegal firearms, preventing firearm theft, protecting registry information, enforcing existing laws and imposing meaningful consequences on those who deliberately misuse firearms.

I therefore ask the Government to retain and strengthen provisions directed at actual criminal behaviour, while withdrawing or substantially amending provisions that impose further burdens on responsible firearms licence holders without sufficient evidence of a corresponding public-safety benefit.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Yours faithfully,

Redacted

Redacted

From: Redacted
Sent: Thursday, 23 July 2026 1:52 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Submission — Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026

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

I oppose this Bill.

The National Firearms Register is a national gun registry by stealth — a centralised database that does nothing to prevent crime but gives government a complete inventory of law-abiding owners. The Bondi incident was a tragic outlier; using it to justify sweeping new restrictions on honest citizens is cynical.

Reclassification and buyback provisions are confiscation by another name. Lawful owners should not be forced to surrender property they've legally acquired because politicians change the definition of a firearm.

Address root causes — mental health, policing failures, border security — instead of punishing people who follow the rules.

Redacted

From: Redacted
Sent: Monday, 20 July 2026 7:41 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Submission - Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026

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Good evening,

Firstly, as a serving member of Tasmania Police, I believe that the National Firearms Register (NFR) is an essential requirement, though I don't like how the NFR and proposed amendments are phrased around the 'wake of the tragic Bondi incident in 2025'. Bondi resulted because non-citizen radicals were not only able to acquire a firearms licence and firearms without the proper controls and measures. I love that the proposed amendments will make it a legislative requirement to be a citizen of Australia, or New Zealand. However, I do not believe that there should be a subsection allowing the Commissioner to exempt any person from this requirement.

As provided in your information sheet, I agree that the NFR will provide law enforcement agencies with near real-time access to accurate information about registered firearms, firearm licences, permits and other relevant records across Australia. I'm unclear how the NFR will assist in preventing firearms from being diverted into illicit markets though. Like most recent firearms related offending, it's not the law-abiding licence holders committing crime, it's the criminals. Hence why I also like the introduction of tougher sentencing for such offenders.

Regards

Redacted

From: Redacted
Sent:
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Submission – Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026

You don't often get email from Redacted [learn why this is important](#)
To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing as a licensed Tasmanian firearm owner to provide feedback on the proposed **Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026**.

While I support sensible measures that improve public safety, strengthen record keeping, and assist law enforcement in preventing criminal misuse of firearms, I do not support the following proposed amendments.

1. No to compulsory firearm buybacks

I oppose any compulsory buyback of lawfully owned firearms.

Licensed firearm owners in Tasmania are already subject to comprehensive background checks, genuine reason requirements, secure storage obligations, licence renewals, and ongoing police oversight. Firearms that have been legally acquired under existing legislation should not be subject to compulsory surrender due solely to changes in classification.

A compulsory buyback would impose significant financial and personal costs on responsible firearm owners who have complied with every legal requirement. It would also reduce confidence in the stability and fairness of Tasmania's firearms licensing framework.

2. No to the reclassification of lawfully owned firearms

I oppose the proposed reclassification of firearms that are currently lawfully owned.

Firearm owners have purchased these firearms in good faith, relying on the legislation and classifications in place at the time. Retrospectively changing their legal status places an unfair burden on responsible citizens rather than those who misuse firearms.

If changes to firearm classifications are considered necessary, they should apply prospectively rather than retrospectively, allowing current lawful owners to continue possessing their firearms under existing licences and conditions.

Focus on criminal misuse rather than lawful ownership

Legislative reform should prioritise measures that target criminal acquisition and misuse of firearms, improve intelligence sharing between jurisdictions, and support effective policing. Responsible, licensed firearm owners should not bear the consequences of criminal behaviour that they have not contributed to.

Conclusion

I respectfully ask the Tasmanian Government to:

- Remove the provisions requiring compulsory firearm buybacks.
- Remove the proposed reclassification of lawfully owned firearms that would affect existing licensed owners.
- Continue working with the licensed firearms community to develop practical reforms that enhance public safety while respecting the rights and responsibilities of lawful firearm owners.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Yours sincerely,

Redacted

Sent from my iPhone