

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Sent: Tuesday, 11 August 2026 12:48 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: FW: More research needs to be made regarding Straight Pull Firearms.

Subject line of original submission pasted below and then edited to overcome Outlook error.

FW: More research needs to be made regarding Straight Pull Firearms. Don't confuse them with Lever release and button release.

Sent: 03 July 2026 20:09

To: Submissions.Strategy.Support <Submissions.Strategy.Support@police.tas.gov.au>

Subject: More research needs to be made regarding Straight Pull Firearms. Don't confuse them with Lever release and button release.

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I agree that lever release (not to be confused with lever action) and button release firearms mostly all of which are shotguns should be reclassified.

However the reclassification of Straight Pull Rifles needs some scientific research as to how much faster they are than a standard bolt action rifle.

The results you will find are negligible, especially when you also take into account that the majority can only hold a maximum of 4 rounds before requiring reloading the magazine.

To compare a Straight Pull rifle with a self loading weapon i.e. semi automatic is crazy.

Please research before implementing any major legislation.

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Sent: Tuesday, 11 August 2026 12:15 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: FW: Why are we the public being prosecuted [edited subject line]

[Message forwarded with content that was in the subject line now copied to the body due to causing errors with Outlook]

Why are we the public being prosecuted because of a government agency giving a non-national non-Australian citizen and gun license at the Tasmanian people or gun? Owners are being prosecuted because the government agency yes yet another government agen

Sent: 07 July 2026 13:28

To: Submissions.Strategy.Support <Submissions.Strategy.Support@police.tas.gov.au>

Subject: Why are we the public being prosecuted because of a government agency giving a non-national non-Australian citizen and gun license at the Tasmanian people or gun? Owners are being prosecuted because the government agency yes yet another government agen...

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Submission: The Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026



It is difficult to know where to start in commenting on the proposed changes to our Tasmanian firearms legislation.

We have an environment where police forces are unwilling to accept there is no public safety issue involved, an anti-gun lobby that knows how to pull emotional strings, and a political establishment that has no interest in rocking a boat filled with the votes of a gun-fearing public.

Government ministers claim that changes will be evidence based....clearly, very few are evidence based!

How can we then expect sensible legislation which supports law abiding citizens and penalises those doing the wrong thing?

Why wait until a catastrophic event, then make ad hoc changes to our firearms legislation rather than undertake a comprehensive review?

Why not follow the New Zealand lead?

NZ Legislation is set to be enacted in September 2026.

“The Bill keeps firearms out of criminals’ hands, while making compliance easier for licenced firearm owners,” says Minister McKee

“Firearms are used by licenced New Zealanders to put food on the table, earn a living, manage pests, compete in sport, enjoy the outdoors, and more.

“The new law replaces a complex and confusing patchwork with legislation that is more logically structured, easier to understand, and focused on the areas that matter most for public safety.

“It strengthens penalties and enforcement against unlawful firearms activity while removing unnecessary rules and improving the way the firearms system operates.

NZ legislation will also be of benefit to eligible Australian shooters as it allows for multi-entry visitor licences of up to 18 months. ...how sensible is that!

In NZ there is the establishment of an independent regulator to handle licencing and administration, independent of police.

In Australia we were presented with a prefabricated, politically motivated Wishlist of legislation and expected to remove the unwanted bits vis ‘consultation’. This is a far cry from the approach across the ditch where some 8500 submissions were considered and 6 months of consultation in constructing improved workable legislation.

The promise was to create changes in legislation which are evidence based. This is clearly not the case in the proposed legislation.

Tasmanian (Australian) Legislation has a tone of restricting the access to and use of firearms by law abiding people rather than supporting those attempting to do the right thing and penalising those who attempt to commit violent crimes.

Irrespective of the content of legislative changes, violent crimes involving AK-type assault rifles and semi-automatic handguns will continue to go unchecked. Gangs continue to post informative videos of their handiwork on social media!!

This latest bloom in legislation continues to make life more difficult for firearm owners on moving residence or moving interstate. National registers are acceptable; however, the quid pro quo should be that all states recognise state firearms licences. Firearm licence transfer should consist of a background check and over the counter transaction.

Two fine examples of pointless, perverted restrictions from our past legislation are the treatments of sound suppressors and the re-classification of smokeless 'gun powder' (for reloading ammunition).

In most Australian jurisdictions sound suppressors are considered to be 'prohibited weapons'. The kind of paranoid thinking, which implies all shooters are criminals and any 'silenced' shooting is murderous, sums up the basis for ongoing resistance to de-criminalising suppressors. They reduce the noise and may reduce recoil but simply are not 'weapons' in their own right...unless used as a club maybe. They are personal protection equipment (ppe)!

In New Zealand and many European countries suppressors can be purchased over the counter by licenced firearm owners.

Powder was re-classified from being a 'propellant' to being an 'explosive' thus applying strict transport conditions on powder delivered to Tasmania. The move has 'strangled' reloading in this state. The reality is that when lit with a match, powder will not explode... And a canister of powder could be kicked up and down a paved road all day, and it would not explode!!

Some 500 cars can travel on the Spirit of Tasmania 1 or 2, less if some are towing caravans. Many fuel tanks are filled with petrol which is explosive. Numerous caravans may be on the same boat, most with gas bottles full of explosive gas....a nonsense situation when juxtaposed with the treatment of 'gun powder'.

....and no one expresses a single concern...where is the logic in these scenarios?

I wrote two letters which I emailed to every state politician in Tasmania. I submit them again in this consultation submission. The letters pre-date the legislative changes now before us. However, most of the content remains relevant. Solving the problem is bigger than simple legislative changes which, in the main, make life more difficult for legitimate firearm owners trying to do the right thing.

It is pleasing to note that some ridiculous initial propositions have been omitted. However, there are inclusions which are not supported by evidence or reality....some are simply to appease noisy agenda-driven political groups. There are still changes which only make life difficult for those trying to do the right thing.

Letter 1

Dear Honorable Members,

I wish to commend Primary Industries Minister, Gavin Pearce, for his recent article in Tas Country (23rd January) regarding recent gun laws passed in federal parliament.

Points he made were 'on the money!'

The issues around violence, hatred and disrespect for each other, of which antisemitic violence is just one expression, are significant in our community at the minute.

The causes are complex, but the result, I think, is fear, isolation and in some cases the need to blame (hate) someone (Same as Hitler and Nazis blaming the Jews in 1930s and 1940s).

Governments can legislate all they like to make us feel better and be seen to be doing something. As Minister Pearce suggested, this rushed-through legislation appears to miss the mark.

We already have strong legislation in this country, Tasmania included.

In the Bondi massacre instance, there has been a failure in national 'intelligence' agencies to communicate intelligence and concerns.

There has been a failure in the administration of the legislation. How could this person, responsible for the Bondi Massacre, convince authorities that he was a fit and proper person to be issued a firearms license?

A similar failure in administration of the legislation resulted in John Howard's second wave of firearms legislation after the Monash shootings by an Asian student who was originally refused membership of a pistol club. How was he able to get a handgun license? Subsequently, law-abiding handgun owners suffered caliber and barrel length restrictions, ...achieving nothing to make the community safer.

It is difficult to change values, which is the ultimate solution. However, ensuring that we have zero tolerance of violence in our community is our best immediate response.

If there are consequences for violent behavior, generally, then individuals will think twice before committing a violent crime.

A good example comes from New York, where they punished people for spitting on the footpath (sidewalk) and found that the murder rate declined. There were consequences for bad behavior.

We accept violence here in Australia, Gangs with machetes invading homes, carjacking, violent home invasions etc with the offenders often apprehended by police, only to be bailed and released...to continue on their merry way.

What message does this send?? There are no apparent consequences for much of violent crime.

I fail to see how punishing innocent law-abiding people will reduce violent crime using firearms?

There are gang members spraying houses with bullets, firebombing businesses as well as executing one another in their cars or outside their own homes.

Are "tougher" gun laws going to stop these criminals? Will unlicensed criminals hand in their firearms during a government buyback? I think not!

We do not hear a word from the anti-gun lobby about stopping violence by criminals or how to get illegal or unregistered firearms out of the hands of criminals....it's too bloody hard!!

The ultimate endpoint in the anti- gun argument is that only criminals will have firearms.

A word on the anti-gun lobby. They say that, if Tasmania does not support the federal gun legislation, we will be left behind.

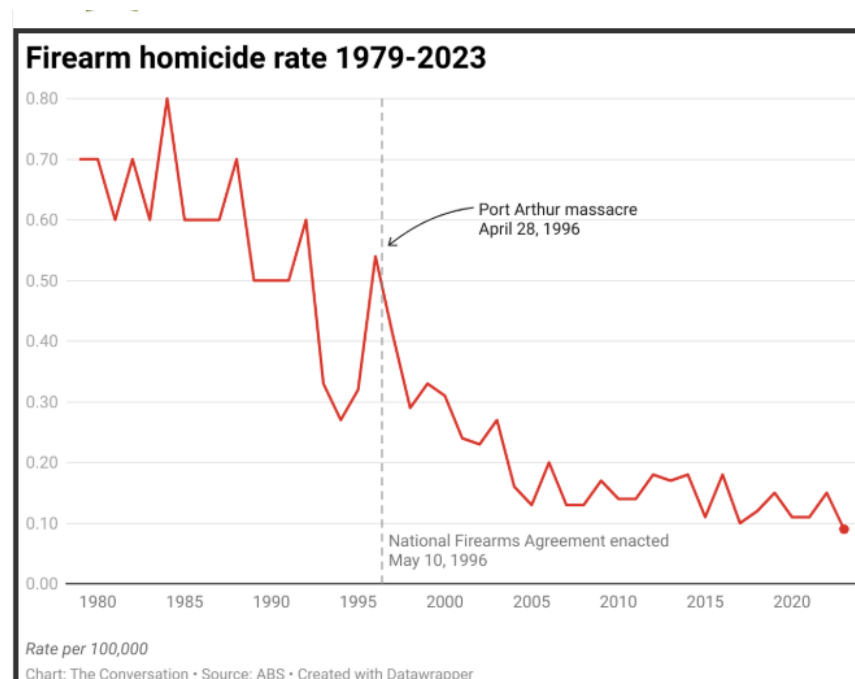
I take exception to such nonsense; it assumes that the new legislation is a step forward...it is not. The new legislation is a step backwards and by rejecting the changes, Tasmania , Qld and other states would be further ahead of the likes of WA and NSW.

Speaking of buyback schemes, the number of registered firearms in Australia has risen from 3 million after the Howard buy-back (1996) to some 4.1 Million at the moment.

There has been a steady decrease in firearm homicide rates in Australia since 1979, before Port Arthur massacre, to this point in time.

Based on data analysis often highlighted by the Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia (SSAA) and corroborated by Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) and ABS data, Australia has seen a long-term downward trend in firearm-related deaths, including homicides, starting well before the 1996 gun law changes.

The anti-gun lobby continues to claim that more licensed firearm owners and more registered firearms put the community at greater risk. The facts and independent analysis do not support their claim.



Source: SSAA Member Publication. Data Source ABS

Increasing firearm ownership does not appear to correlate with an increase in the firearm homicide rate.

Agendas advocating a restriction on the numbers of firearms that an individual can own are naive, ignorant and have no sound basis:

- They fail to understand the concept that there are firearm collectors, with many specimens manufactured pre 1900 and there is no longer ammunition available for them.
- There are family heirlooms, such as my grandfather's shotgun with a hand-carved blackwood stock, carved with a pocketknife in his own hand.
- Firearms are precision tools, designed with a specific use or purpose in mind.
- There are legislated and competition restrictions on caliber, action, barrel length etc. For example, fallow deer can only be taken with a firearm of calibre greater than .240 delivering a specified minimum level of energy at 100m. Some competitions, such as western action require 3 firearms (pistol, shotgun and rifle).
- There are other restrictions on use, such as not being able to hunt with a handgun, the reasons for which I fail to understand.
- Most skilled competitors have multiple firearms. (would a professional tennis player take only 1 tennis racket to the Australian open?).
- No matter how many firearms an individual owns, he or she can physically only fire one at a time. I noted in video footage of the Bondi massacre showed perpetrators of the massacre reloading their weapons....It takes only one fire arm.

The implementation of restrictions on firearm ownership to 4 (NSW) or 5 (WA) will impact on a firearm owner's access to recreational shooting and competition.

Recreational shooters, shooting for crop protection, require at least 4 firearms {shooting deer 1 (caliber restriction), humanely shooting wallaby 1 (centrefire), shooting rabbits and possum 1 (rimfire), shooting ducks and small animals 1 (shotgun)}

If the same individual wishes to participate in competition shoots for example pistol, clay target or target rifle, limits imposed by the new legislation, as in NSW or WA, would exclude him or her from participating in any of these sports....for no sound reason!!

Such legislation is likely to dry up the supply of ammunition and reloading components. 'Gun shops' would become unviable and close their doors. All firearm use would become threatened or restricted. The viability of agricultural and forestry industries would become stressed as the cost of browsing damage would intensify.

This is not 'rocket science'....just common sense.

I implore Tasmanian politicians to adopt a bi-partisan rejection of pressure from other states and the anti-gun lobby to bring about further legislative changes resulting from the recent federal gun laws.

Whilst firearms owners experience frustration with the current system at times, it is accepted and we negotiate on issues and provide feedback in good faith.

I would support national registration of firearms and a national gun license if it allows tracking of firearms across the country and allows greater ease of carrying firearms across state boundaries (for hunting and competition shooting).

I suspect that most law-abiding firearm owners and the community at large would support better administration of the laws as they exist. Such a measure could have saved 16 lives at Bondi. The firearms were simply in the wrong hands.

The proposed restrictions will not make our community safer, have no scientific or statistical basis, impact on the freedoms of law-abiding firearm owners and eventually dry up supply of ammunition, parts, firearm sales (as small businesses close), will cost taxpayers millions of dollars in firearm buyback (will there be an ammunition buy back???) and jeopardize agricultural and forestry enterprises due to increasing browsing damage.

Proposed changes are likely to have a negative impact on competitive shooting from local clubs to Olympic level competition.

If it ain't broke, don't try and 'fix it' (stuff it up).

The focus needs to be managing violence, by education in the long-term and beginning with effective implementation existing legislation... and there needs to be clear and immediate consequences for criminal behavior.

Regards



Letter 2

Dear Honorable Members,

I would like to thank those representatives and their staff who took the time to respond to my previous email.

Unfortunately, 2 states have jumped, into the knee jerk reaction of inappropriate legislation...That is, legislation which satisfies agendas and provides the warm feeling of having done something.

As I said previously, this legislation largely impacts on those who do the right thing, whilst not making the community any safer.

I am pleased to see that there is a planned Consultative Committee to consider, I hope, solutions to terrorist activities, violent behavior and firearms legislation (including antisemitism and hatred generally). This is a time for dropping party politics and acting as Tasmanian community leaders.

The credibility of such a committee needs to be established. As well as the range of interest groups represented, there needs to be input from experts

That is, data and evidence from the Australian Institute of Criminology and ABS and expert opinion from the likes of Dr Samara McPhedran, see 'About' below.

About

Dr Samara McPhedran is **director of the Homicide Research Unit and deputy director of the Violence Research and Prevention Program at Griffith University, Brisbane**. Her area of expertise is firearm violence and gun policy and she has published widely in that field. "

31 Aug 2025

Dr Mc Phedran provided an interview on ABC radio post Bondi massacre. I recommend each of you spend 3 minutes listening to the interview.

<https://www.abc.net.au/listen/programs/adelaide-breakfast/gun-violence/106143848>

Input from such credible experts is fundamental to getting sensible, effective policies and a sound legislative framework in place.

If policy makers were basing firearms policy on data and evidence and the work of experts in the field, we would not see poor policy as in WA and NSW,.... with pressure from lobby groups for other states to follow suit.

I believe you all have a responsibility to show leadership, to explain issues, and educate the community about what is true evidence- based policy and what is political mantra (with political agendas at its root).

We need to see strength, leadership and integrity from our politicians rather than weakness and capitulation by blowing with the wind of opinion (no matter how ill-informed or agenda-driven it may be).

Better implementation and administration of existing legislation and zero tolerance of violent behavior are good starting points. Better communication between areas of government may be useful too!

Providing resources for policing and sending the message that 'you will be caught' and there are serious consequences for violent behavior are first steps in dealing with violent behavior.

Replacing fear and hatred with knowledge, confidence, tolerance and compassion would surely be our long-term objective.

I sincerely hope our representatives in Tasmanian parliament are up to the task.

Regards



Further comment below relates to the Attached Consultation Information Sheet.

Consultation Information Sheet

In 2023, following concerns about firearms information sharing between jurisdictions, including issues highlighted after the December 2022 Wieambilla murders in Queensland, National Cabinet agreed to proceed with implementation of the National Firearms Register (NFR). The Commonwealth subsequently committed to establish the NFR to upgrade firearms management systems across Australia.

Tasmania has consistently participated in national firearms reform initiatives and maintains its own firearms registry through Tasmania Police. As a signatory jurisdiction to the National Firearms Agreement, Tasmania is participating in the development of the National Firearms Register. The Tasmanian Government supports improved national information sharing through the NFR recognising the benefits of a nationally connected firearms intelligence capability.

The National Firearms Register is intended to provide law enforcement agencies with near real-time access to accurate information about registered firearms, firearm licences, permits and other relevant records across Australia. Rather than requiring police agencies to make inquiries with multiple jurisdictions, the NFR will provide a single national view of a firearm's lifecycle, from manufacture or importation through to transfer, surrender, destruction or export. This will improve the ability of police to trace firearms, identify risks associated with firearm ownership, investigate firearm trafficking and theft, and ensure regulatory decisions are based on complete and current information.

If firearm owners support the development of a national firearms register, then there needs to be a 'quid pro quo'. That is, there needs to be national recognition of state issued firearm licences.

Firstly, enabling Tasmanian shooters to more easily travel interstate for shooting competitions and game hunting.

Secondly, enabling firearm owners to more easily relocate to another state. That is, simply trade a Tasmanian firearms licence for say a South Australian licence as an over-the-counter exercise.

In 2023 a relative moved to SA to live and work. It cost him several thousand dollars to re-register firearms, undertake another firearms training course and receive a SA firearms licence.

National firearms register needs to be accompanied by national recognition of state firearms licences.

From a community safety perspective, the NFR is expected to strengthen both public and police safety. It will assist in preventing firearms from being diverted into illicit markets, improve the identification of firearms linked to criminal activity, enhance intelligence sharing between jurisdictions, and provide frontline police with better information when responding to incidents involving firearms. By delivering a consistent and reliable national picture of lawful firearm ownership and firearm movements, the NFR is intended to reduce opportunities for regulatory gaps between jurisdictions and improve Australia's overall firearms management framework.

Stolen firearms in the hands of criminals pose a significant threat to the community. This Bill creates a mandatory minimum sentence of three months imprisonment for being caught in possession of a stolen firearm. The introduction of mandatory sentences for stealing a firearm and possession of a stolen firearm will be achieved through amendments to the *Sentencing Act 1997*.

In the wake of the tragic events at Bondi on 14 December 2025, on 27 February 2026 the Tasmanian Government announced further measures to improve community safety. These measures include the reclassification of straight pull and button/lever release rifles and shotguns to the more restrictive Category C licence and establishing Australian citizenship as the default eligibility requirement for firearms licensing with exemptions for New Zealand citizens in defined circumstances such as primary production.

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

Consultation Information Sheet:

Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026

1

Consultation Information Sheet

Proposed amendments to the *Firearms Act 1996* are listed below.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS INCLUDE:

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

Reclassifying Straight pull and button /lever release firearms to category C will not make the community safer. What evidence is there to support the move?

Every time there is a horrific event that triggers a new round of 'legislation bloom' (review), a focus is on the calibre of firearms or the action of firearms. After Port Arthur massacre the focus was on semi-automatic/ assault rifle type firearms. Most firearm owners supported the re-classification to category D.

After the Monash shooting the focus moved to calibre and magazine capacity restrictions. Calibres above .38 and magazine capacities over 10 rounds were banned. The move was without sound basis as smaller calibre rounds can be loaded to provide much more muzzle velocity than the humble .45 ACP, now banned.

Now, after the Bondi massacre, the focus is on re classifying firearms by type of mechanical action. Mechanical operation to chamber a round and eject a spent case is required.

Observations from the Bondi Massacre and more recent shootings in the United States show the perpetrators were in no hurry to kill people. Even with semi auto assault rifle, unless confronted by armed police officers, the perpetrators carry out their crimes at pedestrian pace. Bystanders generally do not rush at a murderer carrying a rifle of any description. The Bondi shooters were ambling around taking potshots with regular reloading of the low-capacity magazines from ammunition belts. Rifle action did not provide the perpetrators with an advantage of a higher rate of fire...they were happy to take 'potshots' at will, with plenty of time to reload.

There is no evidence to support the re-classification of these firearms. It will not increase public safety. Firearm owners and the industry supporting them are experiencing a 'death by a thousand cuts'

3. Currently registered firearms can be lent between licensed firearms owners and then on lent to a third party. The proposed amendment will permit lending from a firearms owner to a second person but restrict on lending that firearm to a third party. This will lessen the likelihood of firearms being lost or misplaced.
4. A person who lends a firearm must satisfy themselves that the borrower's licence is valid and has appropriate and lawful storage facilities. To facilitate this several definitions have been added to support the implementation of the NFR, including 'lend', 'borrow', 'on-lend' and 'verify'.
5. Several definitions are to be amended for national consistency, such as pistol amended to 'handgun' and 'firearm sound suppressor' to 'suppressor'.
6. The definition of 'firearm' and 'firearm part' are to be clarified following the receipt of expert advice.

7. If firearms are intended to be stored at a location other than the residential address of the registered owner for period greater than 24 hours, the owner will need to notify Tasmania Police.
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.
9. There will be increased scope for firearms dealer employees to possess and handle firearms and firearm parts, as well as purchase and sell firearms in the absence of the holder of the firearms dealer licence.
10. A resident from interstate who intends to reside in Tasmania will now have 7 days to apply for a Tasmanian licence across all categories. Previously Category A, B licence holders had 3 months.

Number 10 above is ridiculous. After a simple background check, it should be an over-the-counter exercise like renewal of a driver's licence.

11. A firearms licence holder must notify Tasmania Police at least 7 days before a change in personal particulars. This was previously within 14 days after the change.
12. Any person in possession of a firearm (whether or not they are the owner) must produce the firearm for inspection when requested to do so by a police officer. This previously only applied to the registered owners of firearms.

11 is ridiculous too!....leave the legislation as is. Why would you contact police **before** particulars have been changed? Information provided would not be applicable/ correct until **after** the changes were made.

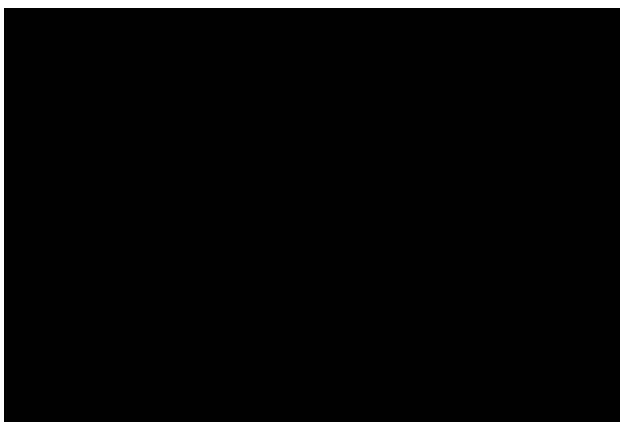
13. Amendment to the structure of the section regarding the crime of possession of stolen firearm, this will increase the penalty for possession of stolen firearms and clarify how a matter can be prosecuted.
14. Possession of stolen firearms will become an alternative conviction for a person charged with Unlawful trafficking in firearms. This means that where a court does not find a person guilty of unlawful trafficking in firearms, they may be convicted of possessing stolen firearms if the alternate charge is proven.
15. Unlawful trafficking in firearms will be able to be tried summarily if the defendant and the prosecutor consent. This will speed up the administration of justice and holding offenders accountable when a matter does not warrant being dealt with in the Supreme Court.
16. A new summary offence of Stealing a firearm or firearm part will be created, to mirror the crime of stealing a firearm or firearm part in the Criminal Code. This will provide a summary option so that offenders can be held to account when a matter does not warrant being dealt with in the Supreme Court.
17. A firearm prohibition order will now apply not only to firearms, but will also apply to firearm parts, ammunition and suppressors.

18. The introduction of magazine ammunition capacity limits for some category A and B firearms to further enhance public safety.
19. The updating of identification requirements for licence applications as the Act currently references repealed Commonwealth legislation.
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.

Magazine capacity is not related to the devastation caused in such events. **Bondi Massacre involved low-capacity magazines in mechanically operated actions.** Perpetrators were in no hurry, they took plenty of time and reloading was not a problem. There is no evidence to support the assertion in point 18 above. Another death by a thousand cuts ill-conceived policy position.

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

The dealer records and the NFR are attractive targets for would-be wrongdoers. What will happen if the NFR is hacked into?



Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 9 August 2026 6:32 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Consultation on the Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026

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I am absolutely disgusted at the suggestion legitimate firearm owners should be penalised for the actions of criminals in the aftermath of the Bondi massacre and indeed other 'criminal' behaviour associated with firearms. Transparency and truth need to be front and centre on these issues including that the NSW government and NSW Police failed in their duty of care. That they allowed these criminals to obtain firearm licences, access firearms despite the offenders being known to police is inexcusable. Premier Minns, the police minister, and the Commissioner should all have been held fully accountable and sacked. It is inappropriate that blame should be directed at legitimate firearm owners effectively declaring them criminals.

In Tasmania, the Police Commissioner should stay within her boundaries and focus on administering and enforcing the law not entering the public domain expressing opinion or engaging in the public debate. She should be administered for that. Regarding the Tasmanian Minister for Police Felix Ellis, he has demonstrated more commonsense, a practical approach and correctly stated that there is nothing wrong with the current Tasmanian firearm laws. He at least appears to understand the issues and the need to not criminalise innocent civilians. Our laws are among the most stringent. In the country, indeed the world. We most certainly do not require caps on the number of firearms an individual can own, that is issue is irrelevant and makes little sense. What we do need is to better understand, improved education, better administration and enforcement and most importantly better responses and outcomes from our courts. Those charged with the most serious of crimes (eg: that recently occurring on the East coast) should not be allowed out on bail.

I am fast losing confidence and faith in the authorities, police, and politicians, to deal with and resolve these issues satisfactorily. They are letting law abiding citizens down and yet are more than willing for those same citizens to put on a uniform and carry arms in defence of this country. But then they fail them down as well (our Special Forces.)

I am a lifelong legitimate firearm owner. I am also:

- 1) A member of the SSAA;
- 2) A former ADF Officer (47 years service);
- 3) A former Gun Safe Tasmania instructor ('AAA' rating).

I have more experience and training than most and I do not accept that I should be penalised due to the criminal behaviour of some in our society.

Perhaps also, our Police Officers should be required to have the same firearms training (and licence) as any member of the public. Given they get authorised to 'carry' and potentially use 'weapons' in the public space the risks should be seen as far greater than those posed by ordinary firearm owners. There can be no reasonable excuse for police officers to not undergo the same, indeed more rigorous training and certification. Many younger officers would have no experience with firearms prior to joining the police force.

[REDACTED]

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 9 August 2026 2:00 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Gun Law Changes

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To whom it may concern. My name is [REDACTED] and for the past 20 years or so I have been a keen hunter in Tasmania and licenced accordingly since permitted. I am also a member of [REDACTED] gun club south of Hobart as well as a current SSAA Member

I DO NOT support the proposed firearms caps, the reclassification of firearms or the buy back scheme that is being proposed.

I DO STRONGLY support the National Firearms Registry and tougher sentences for firearm theft and other offences.

Punishing the Law abiding owner who does everything by the book is backwards, instead the punishment for criminals, unlicensed fireamarms and theft should be the main focus

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Sent: Tuesday, 11 August 2026 9:08 AM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: FW: The proposed changes to the state firearm legislation...

Forwarded email as content was incorrectly included in the subject line causing Outlook errors...

The proposed changes to the state firearm legislation, has less to do with public safety and more with a perceived response to the terrible terrorist attack at Bondi! Unfortunately ever since the Howard Government's buy back, these change...

[REDACTED]

Sent: 06 August 2026 19:41

To: Submissions.Strategy.Support <Submissions.Strategy.Support@police.tas.gov.au>

Subject: The proposed changes to the state firearm legislation, has less to do with public safety and more with a perceived response to the terrible terrorist attack at Bondi! Unfortunately ever since the Howard Government's buy back, these change...

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Sent from my iPhone

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 8 August 2026 9:07 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Late submission request for inclusion

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Firstly apologies for the late submission, I had issues with my email yesterday & days and have just been able to get it fixed.

Dear Strategy and Support Team,

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

I acknowledge that the formal consultation period closed at 5:00 pm on Friday, 7 August 2026. As this submission is being provided immediately following the closing date, I respectfully request that it nevertheless be accepted and considered as part of the consultation process.

I strongly oppose the proposed reclassification of firearms and the introduction of arbitrary caps on the number of firearms that may be lawfully owned by licensed firearms holders.

The fundamental issue is that licensed, law-abiding firearms owners are not the source of the criminal behaviour these reforms are purportedly intended to address. The recent events that have been cited in the broader national debate involved alleged criminal conduct and raise questions concerning intelligence, enforcement and the actions of individuals, not an inherent failure of Tasmania's existing licensing system.

Legislation should be directed toward demonstrated risks and identifiable failures. Further restricting people who have already undergone licensing, background checks, secure-storage requirements and ongoing regulatory oversight does little to address firearms obtained, possessed or used unlawfully.

Tasmania also has circumstances that distinguish it from more heavily urbanised jurisdictions. We are a predominantly rural and agricultural state. Firearms are legitimate working tools for many farmers, landowners, professional pest controllers and other rural people. They are used for livestock management, humane destruction, pest and invasive-species control, crop protection and other legitimate agricultural purposes.

An arbitrary numerical cap fails to recognise that different firearms may be required for different lawful purposes. Calibre, configuration and suitability vary according to the animal being managed, terrain, distance, environmental conditions and the particular task being undertaken. The number of firearms owned by a properly licensed and compliant person is not, by itself, a meaningful measure of public risk.

The proposed changes also have economic consequences. Firearms dealers, gunsmiths, shooting facilities, agricultural suppliers and other small businesses depend upon a stable and predictable regulatory environment. Even the prospect of substantial regulatory change creates uncertainty and

can cause consumers to postpone purchases and investment. For small Tasmanian businesses, that uncertainty can have a significant effect.

I therefore support maintaining the existing classifications and opposing arbitrary numerical caps for properly licensed firearms owners unless the Government can demonstrate, with credible Tasmanian evidence, that a particular existing provision is causing a measurable public-safety problem.

Where reform is justified, government resources would be better directed towards illegal firearms and the people who deliberately misuse them.

In particular, I support stronger penalties and enforcement measures for:

- stealing firearms or knowingly receiving stolen firearms;
- unlawful trafficking and supply of firearms;
- deliberate breaches of secure-storage requirements that facilitate criminal access;
- possession of firearms by prohibited or unlicensed persons; and
- using or carrying a firearm in the commission of a serious criminal offence.

The distinction between lawful ownership and criminal misuse is important. A farmer, sporting shooter, hunter, collector or pest controller who complies with the law should not bear increasingly restrictive regulation because another person deliberately chooses to break that law.

Effective firearms policy should be evidence-based and targeted at behaviour that creates genuine risk. Increasing restrictions on an already regulated population simply because they are comparatively easy to regulate risks creating the appearance of action without addressing the underlying causes of firearms crime.

I therefore respectfully request that the Tasmanian Government:

1. Retain the existing firearms classifications unless a specific change can be supported by clear Tasmanian evidence.
2. Reject arbitrary caps on the number of firearms that appropriately licensed individuals may lawfully possess.
3. Recognise the legitimate agricultural, professional, sporting and recreational uses of firearms in Tasmania.
4. Assess and publicly disclose the economic impact of proposed changes on Tasmanian firearms-related and rural businesses.
5. Prioritise enforcement against firearm theft, trafficking, unlawful possession and criminal use.
6. Consider stronger penalties for those who steal firearms or deliberately use firearms in serious criminal activity.
7. Ensure that future firearms policy is based upon demonstrated risk and evidence rather than simply imposing additional restrictions on compliant licence holders.

Public safety is a legitimate and important responsibility of government. However, effective legislation must distinguish between those who comply with the law and those who deliberately circumvent it.

Tasmania already has a substantial licensing, registration and secure-storage framework. Before imposing further restrictions upon compliant firearms owners, the Government should demonstrate

both the problem being addressed and how the proposed restriction will materially reduce that problem.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask that the proposed firearm reclassifications and ownership caps not proceed, and that the Government instead concentrate its legislative and enforcement efforts on illegal acquisition, theft, trafficking and criminal misuse of firearms.

Thank you for considering my submission. I would appreciate confirmation that it has been received and, notwithstanding its submission shortly after the formal closing time, included for consideration.

Yours faithfully,

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 9:54 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Reject firearm changes.

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

To whom it may concern.

I am writing to note my objection for any and all changes to the firearm bill.

There should be no punishment for the law-abiding firearm community for the acts of terror that are now happening across Australia.

The short comings are not those of the firearm community but the short comings of a government that allowed firearms into the possession of those that should never have had access to guns in this country. How does someone who is on a terror watch list gain access and clearance to firearms of any type/calibre in Australia?

These new rules are just a knee jerk reaction to another government failure. Punishing the local, lawful firearm owners due to the errors of a parliament shows that the current government are so detached from reality, that it makes more sense to them to punish the law-abiding community for the acts of unlawful firearm holders that cause horrific loss of life due to their own errors and short comings. Perhaps the word accountability should be more thought about here. Accountability from the government for THEIR astronomical error that caused mothers, fathers, sisters, sons etc never to return to their families. Scapegoating the wider gun community will not stop this from happening again. Only the government taking accountability and punishing the RIGHT people will stop something so tragic from reoccurring.

I concur that imprisonment for anyone who steals firearms from law abiding citizens is step that is necessary, however punishing the law-abiding firearm owners is not productive, proactive or even remotely called for.

I do not consent to any of my details being posted on any government web site now or in future, as due to the nature of this bill I do not wish for unlawful citizens to any access to any information that may indicate I own or store firearms at my property. You may take this as a show of firearm owning law-abiding citizens doing the right thing to keep firearms out of the hands of criminals. Perhaps the government could take note of this, as it shows that the average Australian firearm owner takes the safety of themselves, others, the community and the firearms themselves incredibly seriously. Wouldn't it be nice if the government did the same?

Common sense shouldn't be this hard.

We will not be the scape goat for a failing government that doesn't actually represent the people of Australia only themselves.

Accountability. Look it up.

Regards

A responsible Firearm owner.

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2026 4:37 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Firearm reforms

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

I'm writing in relation to the proposed firearms legislation that has been circulating in the news/social media.

I am a responsible firearms licence holder with a range of firearms used for hunting, sport shooting, and farm work. I appreciate the clarification that Tasmania does not intend to introduce a cap on the number of firearms an individual may own, and that there will be stronger penalties for those who do the wrong thing, particularly in relation to stolen firearms.

While I am somewhat disappointed about the proposed reclassification of straight-pull shotguns to Category C, I can understand the reasoning behind the decision. Unlike some who will be affected, I recognise that the intent is to reduce risk, and I sincerely hope that, if implemented, these changes contribute to preventing events like those we recently witnessed in Bondi.

I do, however, have two questions:

1. Is there a rough timeline for when the reclassification is expected to take effect?
2. Would it be reasonable to consider waiving PTA waiting periods and associated fees for licence holders who will be required to surrender a reclassified shotgun and acquire a replacement? Even if limited specifically to a Category A shotgun PTA, it seems difficult to justify paying and waiting again for a process that has already been completed for a firearm we are now being required to surrender.

I look forward to your response.

Kind regards,
[REDACTED]

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Sent: 11 August 2026 13:01
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Submission on the Tasmanian Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026 - [REDACTED]

[Subject line edited and copied below] edited to clear Outlook error from long subject line.

FW: Submission on the Tasmanian Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026 - [REDACTED]

Fwd: Firearms Messaging July

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 July 2026 15:30
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support <Submissions.Strategy.Support@police.tas.gov.au>
Subject: Submission on the Tasmanian Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026 - [REDACTED] - Fwd: Firearms Messaging July

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]

Submission on the Tasmanian Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026 - John Marrone

I write as a Tasmanian firearms licence holder and stakeholder, in response to the July–August 2026 consultation. I **support** the government's proposals to strengthen penalties for firearm theft/possession of stolen guns, to establish a National Firearms Register (NFR), and to require Australian citizenship (with limited exemptions) for licences – as these measures target criminal misuse without unduly burdening law-abiding owners. I also back a fair buyback scheme for any affected firearms, consistent with the stated 1.5× market compensation.

However, I **strongly oppose** several other aspects of the Bill as drafted: namely, the proposed **reclassification** of common hunting and sporting rifles/shotguns to a more restrictive category, the new **magazine-capacity and firearm configuration limits**, and the drastic **24-hour notification** rules for address or storage changes. These measures would unfairly penalise ordinary owners without clear safety benefits, as explained below.

Supported measures

- **National Firearms Register (NFR):** I welcome the move to join the NFR. As Tasmania Police note, a connected national database will give police “near real-time access” to a firearm’s history – from import through sale to disposal – greatly aiding traceability and crime prevention. Enhanced data sharing across states (“a single national view of a firearm’s lifecycle”) is a positive reform.
- **Stronger theft penalties:** Raising the penalty for stealing a firearm or possessing a stolen gun to a mandatory minimum 3 months jail is prudent. Stolen weapons are widely recognised as feeding the illicit market, and tougher sanctions should deter organised theft. Tasmania’s commitment to 3-month minimums aligns with this view, and I support it.

- **Buyback scheme**: If any firearms are reclassified, a fair buyback is essential to treat owners justly. The proposed compensation of 1.5× market value for **reclassified** firearms (and 1× for voluntary surrenders) is reasonable and should be funded in full.
- **Citizenship requirement**: Establishing Australian citizenship as the default for licence eligibility (with narrow NZ exemptions) is understandable, given the national security concerns highlighted after Bondi. This aligns with other states and helps ensure licensees have stronger ties and vetting.

Opposed measures

1. Reclassification of straight-pull and lever-release actions to Category C

The Bill would move **straight-pull** rifles and **button/lever-release** rifles/shotguns from Category B into Category C. In practical terms, this forces those firearms into the same highly restricted class reserved for farmers and bona fide collectors. Only those who can prove a *"genuine reason"* of primary production, animal control or collection may keep Category C guns. **Most sport shooters and hunters do not qualify** under those criteria. In short, reclassification means *law-abiding owners would either have to surrender their rifles under a buyback, or lose them altogether*, simply because the bolt action is "straight-pull" instead of rotating.

There is **no evidence** that straight-pull rifles are any more dangerous than conventional bolt-actions. The only difference is the linear motion of the bolt; they fire and reload one shot at a time like any bolt-action. Even police sources acknowledge that conventional bolt-action and lever-action rifles (with magazine limits) remain Category A and B, while these niche actions would suddenly require a Cat C licence. This reclassification is an **arbitrary technicality**.

By contrast, the very purpose of Category C is to restrict access to genuinely specialised roles. In practice (as NSW experience shows), almost all recreational shooters lose access. NSW's recent reforms moved the same firearms into Cat C, "well out of reach of the overwhelming majority of shooters". The Magnum Sports summary of NSW's law explains that straight-pull and lever-release rifles would be Cat C only, and *"Category C access is limited primarily to primary producers. Recreational hunters and sport shooters generally cannot acquire or retain Cat C"*. In other words, most Tasmanian target and hunting licence holders would have to give up these guns or pivot to complex exemptions. Tasmania Police's own FAQ admits that owners not eligible for Cat C must have their guns bought back – effectively a compulsory surrender.

Tasmanian heritage and sporting tradition are at stake. The proposed change would make **historic service rifles** (e.g. Swiss K31 straight-pulls, Ross rifles, etc.) and newer straight-pull designs effectively unusable for hunters and shooters. It is telling that Sporting Shooter magazine observed NSW's ban would "essentially ban all...straight-pull firearms (even historic designs)". Those rifles have never been linked to crime – banning them punishes law-abiding citizens, not criminals. In the Bondi attack, the perpetrators used **licensed** long-arms (reportedly semi-automatic rifles like the FN F5). Targeting normal bolt-action rifles is not a response to such threats; it simply disarms rural sport shooters and collectors.

For these reasons, I oppose **all** reclassification of lever-release or straight-pull firearms. If there is concern about any particular mechanism, it could be dealt with via case-by-case police permits or inspections, rather than a blanket category change. Tasmania can maintain public safety without arbitrarily expanding Category C.

2. New magazine-capacity and action restrictions

The Bill also **clarifies and tightens magazine limits** for Categories A and B. In essence, it codifies existing National Firearms Agreement caps: e.g. rimfire rifles still max 10-round detachable magazines, shotguns 5 rounds, centre-fire rifles 10 rounds. These provisions are largely a restatement of current rules. For example,

the FAQ confirms Category A will allow a detachable rimfire magazine “no more than 10 rounds” and shotgun up to 5 rounds, and Category B rifles “no more than 10”.

While consistency is fine, these restrictions impose **real costs on genuine owners**. Many Tasmanian hunters and farmers rely on reasonably large magazines for pest control. Applying tight magazine limits hinders their effectiveness. Importantly, there is no evidence such limits stop criminals. The Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission reports that many illicit magazines enter Australia via international mail – so hardened offenders will simply import higher-capacity magazines illegally. Domestic restrictions thus mostly inconvenience law-abiding citizens.

Moreover, some of the Bill’s wording may inadvertently impact ordinary firearms. For instance, the Bill expressly bans self-loading shotguns or shotguns with >5 rounds, and says a Category B centre-fire rifle cannot be self-loading or straight-pull. While existing law already bans self-loading rifles in Cat B, the new text also bars **straight-pull** mechanisms in Cat B. This overlaps with and reinforces the reclassification issue above, doubling the burden on those firearms.

In sum, I see no public-safety justification for tightening magazine limits on already heavily regulated arms. Any drop in criminal firepower from these limits is theoretical. Meanwhile, they impede Tasmanian shooters. If anything, focus should be on tracking illegal imports (as the ACIC report shows is a problem), not penalising licensed magazines.

3. Onerous 24-hour notification rules

The Bill would **dramatically shorten** notification windows for licence changes, far beyond any other state. Specifically:

- If you move to a **new address**, you must notify TasPol **24 hours before** the change, or at latest within 24 hours after moving. Currently, Tasmanian law allowed up to 14 days. The Q&A acknowledges this is a change from “notify within 14 days” to “24 hours prior/after”. No other jurisdiction in Australia has such a tight deadline. For example, Queensland licensees have 14 days to update their details; Victoria also uses 14 days. A sudden move of residence can be unpredictable. Requiring notification **one day before** is unrealistic for many people (e.g. due to housing availability, work commitments, family issues).
- Storing a firearm at a non-home location for **more than 24 hours** (e.g. leaving a rifle at a club or friend’s for a weekend) likewise must be reported in advance. This is extremely restrictive. Hunters often share firearms or send them to clubs for competitions. Under the new rule, every such arrangement longer than a day becomes a compliance headache: one must call police and explain the plan. This seems a disproportionate burden for routine activities and largely a risk shifting exercise on law abiding shooters.

The government justifies the 24-hour rule by citing the NFR: it claims that “near real-time and accurate records” of firearm whereabouts are needed. However, Tasmania Police’s own material admits that electronic notification systems (via the NFR project) are not yet in place, and are being designed to “reduce administration burden”. Until that system is live, licence-holders would face heavy manual reporting requirements. In any case, most lawful owners routinely store and move firearms responsibly; a two-week window (as used in other states) seems more than ample to keep records current.

Imposing 24-hour notification is thus **unnecessarily onerous**. It risks penalising honest people who are late in notifying an address change. It adds stress and paperwork without clear safety gain.

4. Category-locking and lending provisions

Although not explicitly asked, I note related compliance changes also worry me: the Bill would limit firearm lending (owner can only lend to one person, not onward) and require verification that any borrower has proper storage. These create new duties and liabilities for ordinary owners (again further risk shifting on law abiding shooters). For example, a licensed hunter who lends a rifle to a neighbour to shoot pigs must now **ensure** the neighbour’s storage meets the law. While I agree on verifying licences, adding criminal

liability for any lending is excessive. Such detailed rules again target law-abiding citizens more than criminals.

Conclusion

In summary, while I support **measures that genuinely target gun crime** (NFR, stolen-gun penalties, citizenship tests, fair buybacks), I urge the Government to **withdraw or amend** the parts of the Bill that reclassify commonly used rifles/shotguns, tighten magazine/action rules, and impose 24-hour notification deadlines. These provisions would impose major burdens on responsible Tasmanian shooters and farmers, without clear evidence of preventing violence.

- **Reclassification** to Category C should be dropped. Category C should remain limited to its original intent (farmers, collectors), not used to effectively ban straight-pull and lever-release rifles for others.
- **Magazine and action limits** should not be tightened beyond current law. Existing limits already apply (e.g. 10-round rimfire, 5-shot shotgun); further restrictions will only hamper farmers and target shooters, while illicit actors will ignore them.
- **Notification rules** should be maintained to at least 14 days. A 24-hour rule is unprecedented and completely impractical.

Tasmania can improve firearm safety through the supported measures **without undermining legitimate use**. I respectfully request these concerns be considered in finalising the Bill.