

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 7 August 2026 7:17 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Feedback on the Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026 (the Bill).

Dear Sir/Madam,

I write to you to make comment on the proposed (and likely) changes to the Firearms Act 1996.

I am opposed to any changes to the current legislation which further restricts legitimate firearms ownership in Tasmania, or Australia, as I believe the current legislation gives the police all the powers they need for effective administration of firearms in this state.

This legislation appears to be in response to the recent Bondi shootings.

As background and in support of my position, I wish to note the following.

- The figures vary greatly, but it can be quoted that between 2,000 and 20,000 people die each year from medical errors, and it usually reported around 18,000 each year is Australia.
- In comparison around 200 die each year from firearms with around 90% of these as suicide, say on average about 20 no. not as a result of suicide, including accidental deaths.
- However other figures say 277 people were murdered in Australia last year, with approximately 12% of homicides caused by firearms (2019 – 2020), say 36 people.
- So we can see there is some discrepancies in the actual numbers available, but it is generally of that order.
- With the current Australian population in excess of 27,000,000 this if the round number is 27 (for ease of calculation) per year, it comes to 1 in a 1,000,000 is killed each year by firearms, and only 11% were licenced, approximately 1 in 10,000,000 caused by licenced firearm owners.

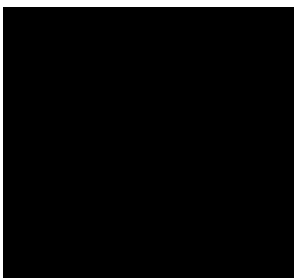
It really seems to be a political reaction rather than a reasoned reaction.

- On average, over the years, 85% to 88% people who committed homicide with a firearm **were not licenced.**
- **Only 11% of the firearms used were licenced.**
- Of all the deaths caused by firearms yearly, on average around **4 to 5 of these were caused by licenced firearm owners.**
- Very quickly we can see that it is not the licenced firearm owners that should be targeted, as is being proposed.
- There are currently over 1 million firearm owners in Australia with an average of 4 firearms per person.
- The proposed law is being targeted at those people who have more than this average number of firearms.
- These particular people are usually collectors or people who are dedicated to their sport involving firearms and these people are far more likely to take far greater than normal precaution of securing their firearms and complying with legislation.

My very strong position is that the laws that are in place currently are totally sufficient, and there should be no changes to the current laws, as the proposal are clearly targeting those who are particularly interested and involved in their sport.

As an aside to the above there is absolutely no justification for banning machete's. Again, target the offenders.

There are far more important strategies for our government to be focussed on and spending hard earned taxpayers money.





Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 7 August 2026 3:54 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Fire arms

[REDACTED]
Good afternoon

As a concerned citizen I am emailing my objection to the new gun law proposal.

Since the Port Arthur incident the government have been insisting that they are trying to keep the community safe by locking up guns and their legal owners, this has been an invalid direction thus far.

As a member of a family who have always had guns from a very young age in the 50's and 60's without incident I can not believe the current madness that is happening, the more you try to in force your new laws the more incidents are happening.

As stated, from an early age we were educated with regards to fire arms and ammunition, in my younger days we keep the fire arms and ammunition over the fire on a gun rack the boys in the family made in wood work at school.

Owning a fire arm was an Australia given and without incident.

Moving forward to the current years the rules and regulations have only increased the incidence of violence towards humanity, my personal belief is that the only thing you are doing with regulation is making good honest licensed fire arms owners pay for something they are not doing.

People who use fire arms have them under lock and key don't commit the crimes against humanity, there has been news of stolen guns, from whom? And where?

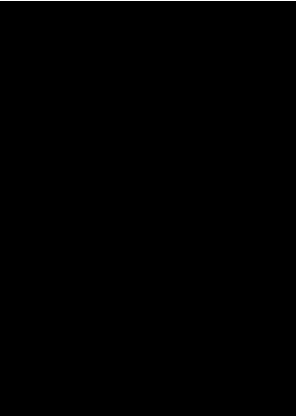
(if it is a domestic violence situation banning guns would not help in a situation of high strain and stress, I have even witnessed law in forced police officers do irrational things in situation of high family emotions and stress, these situations create irrational emotions and should not be consider in an over all judgment of fire arm laws)!

Over the years I have observed that a lot of the atrocity that have happened have been committed by unregistered and unlicensed people, and not necessarily from Australia!

If the gun laws are tighten once again with no evidence that it will stop the madness happening in the current society, by past examples of laws tightening up, it just pushes the criminal under ground and more radical in their attempts to genocide races of people they do not agree with.

An attempt to control the masses with laws and regulation has proven that it may not be the answer, true statistical significance research into the incidents published on social media and television would be a starting point to understand who is actually committing the crimes against humanity, then write laws to focus on the problem and not blanket the nation.

The attempts to control hurt innocent civilians and stop nothing the law is trying to prevent.



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

Tasmanian Firearm Licence Holder

SECTION		OPPOSE/SUPPORT	REASON
PREAMBLE			Whilst I support this Bill to some degree, it would not have stopped any of the atrocities that have been committed in the last few years
NEW: 82A		OPPOSE	Due to the vagaries of the amendment as it only affects legal ownership and licencing.
107 (Possession of firearm parts)		SUPPORT	This is supported IF the Police only target those unlicensed (criminal) offenders and not create an easy target of firearm licence holders who have kept a used spring, firing pin or other worn part .
107A Possession of stolen firearms		SUPPORT	This is a criminal offence anyway.
110A (unlawful trafficking)		SUPPORT	I believe this is, or should be a criminal offence and should be treated as such
NEW: 110c Stealing of firearm or firearm parts		SUPPORT	Again this requires strict mandatory sentencing to be applied by the judiciary.
NEW: 121a Lending and borrowing of firearms		OPPOSE	As I can see legal licence owners of firearms with good intentions becoming embroiled in legality.
Changes to definitions and terminology		SUPPORT	I give tentative support to this changed provided the definitions and changes are fully disclosed and addressed by fully qualified gunsmiths, not by the police.

Reclassification of firearms		OPPOSE	I strongly oppose this. The incessant belief that reclassification of a firearm changes it in some way is ludicrous and that those that have purchased them legally and owned them for many years have not been the problem. The firearms were purchased under fit and proper person regulations so how has that changed
Cat C restricted to allow one firearm		OPPOSE	Again this is ambiguous in the definition of straight pull, button release or lever action firearms are no different to bolt action firearms in their operation. I can see further restriction coming in the future from this.
Domestic Violence Orders		SUPPORT	Any changes that support the victims (male or female) of DV should be supported. However the confiscation of firearm(s) should not be the first criteria if the violence is related to other issues, money deprivation and not the use of a firearm.
Changes in Citizenship and residency		OPPOSE	As there is no sunset clause on how long a person has resided in this country.
Firearm dealers checking validity of a firearms licence		SUPPORT IF...	There should be an emphasis put on the electronic submitting of Permits to Acquire and Licence Applications. In Tasmania, the requirement to lodge any Firearms Registry paperwork with Services Tasmania does not provide owners the opportunity to maintain the security of their data.
NFR Portal		SUPPORT IF....	There needs to be strict security arrangements for access to the NFR. There is a danger of access by criminal elements that could make the data vulnerable to access for illegal purposes.
Notify change of address for more than 24 hours		OPPOSE	Due to the fact that once a firearm is taken out of storage, real time become oblique in that the owner is licenced, his/her firearm is registered and that they are in control of it, so what does it matter where it is. The problem we have is the criminal use of firearms and real time knowledge of their whereabouts is NIL.

Change of name or residence		OPPOSE		Given the vulnerability of all electronic data at this time to breaches by criminal activity both local and international, I have reservations about this clause
Changes to applying for Tasmanian Firearms Licence when moving from interstate		OPPOSE		Australia was always regarded as a free country. This is the most oppressive measure ever put forward and further erodes our freedoms
Changes for firearm dealers		SUPPORT		However the amount of paperwork that dealers have to go through for customers, firearms services and in some cases other agencies all takes time and in business these days, time is money.
New penalties or increased penalties		SUPPORT IF....		The only reason I give support is it may give politicians and Police a fuzzy feeling that they have achieved something. However, as I have related to in other correspondence, when the death penalty is still in play in some parts of the world for serious crime and humanity persists in doing these heinous acts, why would anyone believe jail would deter criminal activity. Further to this point, humanity are the greatest risk takes on the planet and criminals are no different. They believe they can get away with the crime, so they are prepared to take the risk. People with this kind of mentality will not be deterred by penalties of any sort so authorities squeezes us, the law abiding citizen, a little tighter.

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

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 7 August 2026 1:26 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: firearm submission

[REDACTED]

Firearm amendment bill 2026.

I wish to make this submission on behalf of myself and licensed firearm users, in particular in reference to primary producers.

There does not appear in the proposed changes to the firearms act, anything that will enhance public safety, nor would have prevented the tragedy at Bondi or Port Arthur.

Unfortunately the changes only frustrate genuine users and do not contain harsh enough penalties for the criminal activity and flagrant misuse of firearms.

I propose these points.

1. Category C was intended for automatic self loading firearm only. Any manually operated firearms, straight pull etc should be placed in Category B or A as per the original definition.
2. Magazine capacity for the use in Primary Production and vermin control should not be decreased, but increased to a limit of 20 rounds per box or integral magazine.
3. Sound suppressors should be available for Primary Production and vermin control, licensed to the user as per the recommendation of the "Alternative to 1080 Study".
4. Interstate firearms licences should be automatically transferred to Tasmanian license without having to repeat a firearms safety course.
5. Renewal of firearm licenses should not be a re application of licence if the circumstances for the licence holder has not changed.
6. The penalties for firearm theft, manufacture or trading in stolen and unlicensed firearms should be substantially increased to 10 to 15 years imprisonment.

Unless the stolen firearm has been purchased through the proper channels and was genuinely unknown to the purchaser or seller that it had been previously stolen.

In conclusion, making more restrictive requirements to primary producers and genuine firearm users is counter productive to vermin and proper wild life control.

Tasmania is facing an ever increasing burden of feral animals and yet these contemplated restrictive firearms laws only burdens those that have the need and responsibility for feral animal control.

Furthermore these restrictive law changes do not enhance public safety in any way.

[REDACTED]

To whom it may concern.

I would like to make a submission against the proposed changes to the Firearms Act 1996.

It is disingenuous to say these changes are “keeping Tasmanians safe” and quite obviously they are also targeting law abiding citizens.

The devil is in the detail which starts at the title of the proposed bill “Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026”. The meaning of “(Miscellaneous)” is “made up of many different things that do not match or fit into a main group” so quite obviously from the title there are shenanigans afoot.

I would like to say from the outset that I support good laws that target criminals but a majority of the proposed changes do not target criminals and instead will put people in a situation of being in violation of the law while doing nothing untoward.

I will not speak to each change item individually but would like to support my overall view of being against the proposed bill by highlighting some of the consequences of the changes.

#3 The lending of firearms between “licensed” owners. So under the changes I will not be able to give one of my legal firearms to my brother to take it to my Dad so he can use it. Why? We are not criminals, firearms are legal seems like entrapment to me.

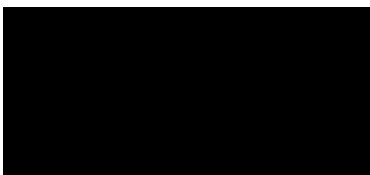
#7 If my 82 year old Dad takes one of his legal firearms to the shack even tho it's stored securely will be in violation of the law if he doesn't inform the police within 24 hours. He can't do that, he barely uses his phone and it's normally flat. That is unfairly targeting a law abiding citizen. Possibly giving someone with a perfect record a violation for essentially doing nothing wrong.

#12 The police will require a lawful firearm owner to produce the firearm for inspection. I believe this is written to be more harassing than it currently stands.

I should remind you it's legal to have firearms. I think the current system is dreadful. The police have turned up multiple times in the hours of darkness and knocked quite loudly on the door to do an inspection. I work interstate and it scared my family who live in a quite sparsely populated area and never get uninvited guests. After multiple attempts the police did the right thing and scheduled a visit in daylight hours when I was home.

There are obviously some changes that target the criminals and I wholeheartedly support them but as the bill stands it unfairly effects law abiding citizens and should not be enacted into law.

Regards,



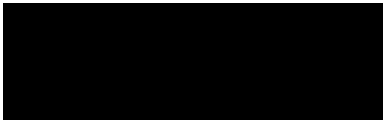
Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 6 August 2026 11:24 AM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support

[REDACTED]

NO don't penalise us for something out of our control.
Federal Gov and NSW Gov and gun licensing branch Failed all of us.
They had all the intelligence and rules in place to stop this BUT FAILED.
DON'T FOLLOW LABOUR.
Tasmania has some of the strickest gun laws in the world.
If any laws need changing COME DOWN HARDER ON GUN CRIME AND SENTENCING.
Send a message to criminals that will mean more than a slap on the wrist.
Be a LEADER not a follower.
TASMANIA NEEDS COMMON SENSE.

[REDACTED]



5th August 2026

Subject: Firearm Control Issues and Potential Legislation

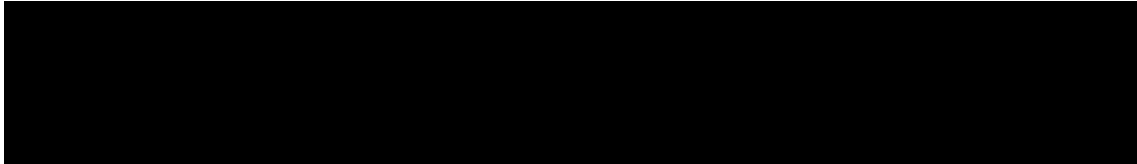
I am writing to express my concerns about the restrictions that are imposed on collectors of antique firearms. This submission is based on my earlier submission of April 26th. As background I own  antiquities – all registered - that at some stage in the past were potential weapons, but not any longer due to their age and outdated technology and unavailability of ammunition. Most of my antiquities are at least 150 years old and some much more dating back to the 1700's and totally unusable. I strongly believe that:

There should be an emphatic distinction between unserviceable antiques and potential weapons.

Antiquities

In other words there are antiques and weapons and each category need to be treated with different controls. In terms of the antiques I make the following points:

- Antique collectors are interested in the historical aspects and wish to preserve old technology for future generations.
- Many, possibly most antique collectors, have not the slightest interest in any weapon that could be fired and wish to be distinguished from active firearm users.
- There is no rationale for restricting the number of antique ex firearms any more than restricting the number of antique clocks a collector might own.
- The question that needs to be considered is “How many offences have ever been committed using out dated flintlock, percussion or matchlock (hopefully no wind or rain) or similar antiques?” I ask that this figure (if it exists) be compared with illegal use of real firearms, and that should form the basis of the nature of respective controls.
- Any kitchen knife or garden implement or similar would be infinitely more dangerous than these antiques.
- Many of these antiques have visual appeal such as my flintlock and percussion antiques which are inlaid with mother-of-pearl and are very presentable. In past times I was able to display these for general admiration. For the points raised I strongly advocate that these antiquities be able to be on display.



They deserve to be displayed for the enjoyment of others

I suggest that bureaucratic misunderstanding and willingness to impose unreasonable restrictions are the reasons this realistic right had been denied.

- These antiquities tend to be valuable and it is certain that owners would take every precaution to ensure their safety even when on display.
- Valuable policing resources should not be needlessly wasted on excessive controls on antiquities that in no way present a danger to the public.
- For all the reasons listed above I emphatically request that for these antiquities there be no need for registration or unreasonable restrictions on their display or storage. To adopt this suggestion would in no way diminish public safety and I challenge anyone to substantiate any valid argument to the contrary.

Potential Weapons

In terms of functioning genuine firearms, as with most concerned citizens, I support:

- Reasonable restrictions on storage
- Reasonable limits the number of weapons
- Limiting the nature of the firearms. I do not support automatic or semi-automatic or high powered weapons for private use.

There can be no justifiable reasons for private citizens to own combat weapons!

- Eliminating silencers. I do not support the use of silencers for private use.

It is difficult to formulate any argument to support the contrary view on these last two points.

In conclusion I believe that the points I have made are both valid and relevant to discussions relating to this matter. I trust they will be given appropriate consideration and I look forward to a sensible outcome. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Thank you for considering this submission.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

4th August 2026

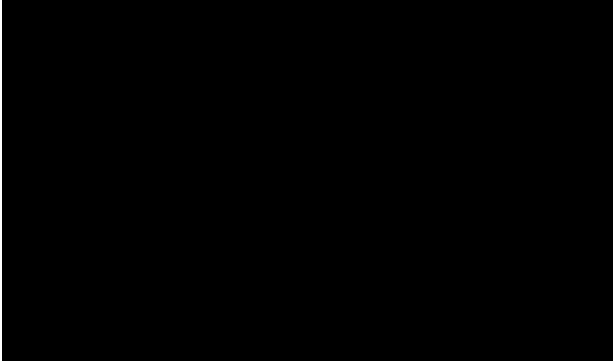
Submissions at Strategy and Support
Department of Police, Fire & Emergency Management
GPO Box 308
Hobart Tas. 7001

With reference to the proposed amendments contained in The Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026 I submit the following comments for consideration:

- that selectively limiting citizenship exemptions to New Zealanders is discriminatory and not entirely logical.
- My family migrated from England [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- I do not have a record with police forces anywhere in the world and have no political affiliations. As a permanent resident of Australia, I can cast my vote in State and Federal elections.
- I hold a Bachelor of Economics degree from the University of Tasmania and have contributed to the Tasmanian and Australian economies [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- I completed a firearms course in 2002 and subsequently purchased firearms for vermin control in accordance with permits issued by Game Services Tasmania for which I lodge an annual return.
- As the olive trees grew larger, the threat abated significantly. I prefer to restrict the use of my firearms to euthanising animals that have been maimed. However, the need to cull problem animals can arise at any time.
- It is clear to me that citizenship is no guarantee - for various considerations - that someone who owns a firearm will not commit an offence. These considerations include the person's level of intelligence, their character and their cultural, social or political beliefs and affiliations.

- I suggest that the citizenship exemption be extended to Permanent Residents who can demonstrate a genuine occupational or rural need for a firearm and have lived in Australia for a minimum period of - say fifteen years - with no Police record and no apparent involvement in political activism.

Yours sincerely,



24 July 2026

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

Subject: Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026.

To whom it may concern,

This submission is outlining my opposition to the proposed Bill, how it will be detrimental to land owners and demonstrating that such discrimination is unacceptable.

The Bill's title including the word miscellaneous gives me pause to wonder which parts of the Firearms Amendment Bill 2026 are a haphazard assortment of unrelated items, and what are they unrelated to, firearms?

As a [REDACTED] 25-year law-abiding resident, and registered firearms owner for over a decade, I have used my registered tools to manage both the health and well being of my hobby farm animals, and to protect our families' pastures, gardens and orchards from pests. Without these essential tools we would have been over-run by the plague proportions of wallaby and other pests, which would have made it impossible to be productive here in any way. To have these essential tools removed will destroy not only our productivity, but it will be a destruction of our equity. All this destruction, of course, will in no way make anyone safer, quite the contrary, it will cause hardship and suffering to those who simply wish to use those things deemed essential to managing day to day living. This Bill also does not solve the problem of criminal use of firearms, as criminals don't register firearms, don't care to fulfil the requirement to be 'fit and proper', never have to answer to the beliefs of the Commissioner, Firearms services, police or courts and don't care who they harm. It seems many criminals don't even need to steal the firearms from registered owners because they likely have the means and opportunity to import them illegally, as is their nature.

Added to the obvious suffering and hardship that would be caused by the amendments, it is unfortunately becoming apparent that this Bill is intent on promoting racial discrimination against those of the ANZAC tradition. Being [REDACTED] with Australian born ancestors makes these amendments particularly malicious and demeaning and it makes a mockery of Australia's membership of the United Nations, particularly it's signatory status to the primary UN legal framework designed to stop racial discrimination, known as the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD), also the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and locally, the Racial Discrimination Act 1975. It is also apparent that some assumed fear is gripping the government, who seem intent to appoint the Commissioner to an autocratic position as, what can only be described as, a 'weapons czar', with those deemed unworthy

'in their opinion' required to beg the Commissioner for permission to be allowed to use the tools necessary to live. This is a completely disgusting and untenable situation.

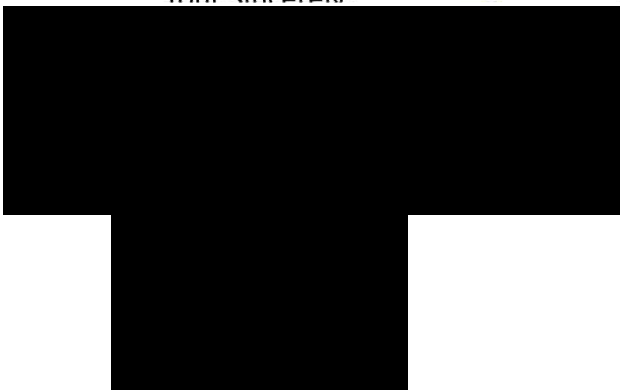
To remedy this potentially unnecessary outcome, might I suggest that firstly, instead of banning access to things based on race or citizenship, people are assessed on their violent criminal record or lack thereof. This is after all the crux of the alleged reasoning behind removing these tools from 'dangerous people'.

Secondly, people who have immigrated from or spent significant time in known war zones (including Australian born citizens) may need to undertake regular specialist psychiatric assessments to ascertain if any repressed anger needs to be resolved before they can be deemed 'fit and proper'.

Thirdly, if the government fears insubordination from 'sovereign citizens', ask why it is that so many of its own citizens are disgruntled enough with the government and its performance that they no longer wish to participate in society, why they are protesting against certain laws, and why they seem to perceive corruption in governance as rampant. By publishing simple and obvious **complete** truths online that address the few limited claims of people labelled as such, without unwarranted inciteful and emotive linguistic jargon, you should eliminate any alleged ideological misunderstandings and justifications. Additionally, for those who complain of unworkable legislation or corporatised governance, try to resolve internal processes and performance issues first before adding more ill-conceived legislation that further aggravates those who are already alleged to be aggravated. All said, this Bill is essentially putting the proverbial ambulance at the bottom of the cliff instead of the fence at the top.

Therefore, I see this Bill is ill conceived and poorly thought out. It is inexcusable to continue that level of incompetence and claim a quasi-triumph over perceived crimes, which would be a blatant lie. Having been a recent victim of Police violence resulting from the Commissioners beliefs, I see no good outcomes for elevating that position to a more egregious level while discriminating against those who only follow the law.

Your Sincerely

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature and name of the sender.

Response to the Consultation on the Firearms Amendment Bill 2026

The [REDACTED] appreciates the tightening of gun ownership through the implementation of the National Firearms Register and the proposed Firearms Amendments in Tasmania.

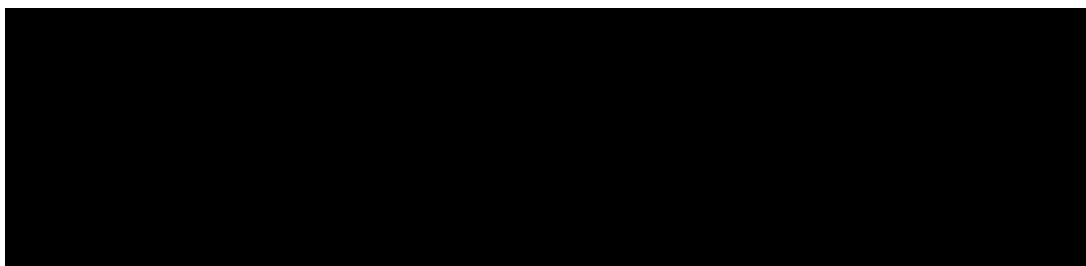
The Amendments send a clear message about the serious nature of gun ownership by placing greater obligations on firearms owners with regard to lending their firearms and with regard to reporting changes in their address.

Similarly creating new offences and stronger sanctions against those caught in possession of stolen or otherwise illegal firearms also sends a clear message about the importance of regulation, registration and control of firearms in Tasmania.

However the Bill is lacking in that there is no limit on the number of guns that can be owned by any one person. We believe that this is a matter of public safety. The more guns there are in the community, even if they comply with registration and regulation, the more people are at risk. By not controlling the number of guns they can own, registered gun holders are set up for an arms race.

We fully support Police Commissioner Donna Adams in stating that public safety should take precedence over the privilege of gun ownership. She cites: police safety being threatened by more arms being available within the community; the increased use of firearms in family violence offences; and the fact that Tasmania has the highest gun theft rate in the nation. The more legally registered guns in the community, particularly the more owned by one person, the greater the risk of them being stolen.

Public safety needs to be the bottom line of the Firearms Act, and without a cap on ownership, the risks to public safety increase.



Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 11 July 2026 3:13 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: feedback on the Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026

Submission Regarding Proposed Amendments to Tasmania's Firearms Laws

I write to express my favour for the improvement of public safety however I tender my strong opposition to any proposal to further amend Tasmania's firearms legislation by introducing limits on the number of firearms that a lawfully licensed person may own, reducing lawful magazine capacities, or reclassifying button-release or lever-release centrefire firearms and shotguns.

Tasmania already has a comprehensive firearms licensing and registration system that places significant obligations on lawful firearm owners. Licensed firearm owners are subject to rigorous background checks, genuine reason requirements, secure storage inspections, registration of every firearm, and ongoing police oversight. These existing measures ensure that firearms are owned responsibly and that individuals who do not meet the required standards can be refused or have their licences revoked.

Introducing arbitrary limits on the number of firearms a person may own would not improve public safety. Criminals do not comply with firearms legislation or ownership limits, and such measures would only affect those who already comply with the law. Rather than addressing criminal misuse of firearms, ownership caps would unfairly penalise responsible, law-abiding Tasmanians who have demonstrated their commitment to safe and lawful firearm ownership.

Many legitimate firearm owners participate in a range of shooting disciplines that require different firearms designed for specific purposes. Competitive shooting includes numerous rifle, shotgun, and pistol disciplines, each with differing equipment requirements. A firearm suitable for one discipline may not be suitable or competitive in another. Likewise, hunters often require different firearms that are appropriate for different game species, hunting environments, and humane harvesting requirements. A single firearm cannot reasonably fulfil every legitimate sporting and hunting purpose.

An ownership cap would therefore restrict the ability of licensed shooters to participate fully in multiple sporting disciplines and would prevent hunters from owning firearms that are fit for purpose. Such a restriction would have negative impacts on sporting organisations, clubs, and regional communities without delivering any measurable public safety benefit.

Similarly, there is no evidence that reducing magazine capacity limits for lawfully owned firearms would deter criminal offending. Individuals who misuse firearms are already acting outside the law and are unlikely to be influenced by further restrictions on magazine capacity. Such changes would instead affect licensed sporting shooters and hunters who use their firearms safely, responsibly, and in accordance with existing legislation.

I also oppose any proposal to reclassify button-release or lever-release centrefire firearms and shotguns. These firearms are currently owned by licensed individuals under Tasmania's existing regulatory framework and are already subject to licensing, registration, secure storage requirements, and police oversight. Reclassifying these firearms would impose significant costs and burdens on

responsible owners who have lawfully acquired them, without demonstrating a corresponding improvement in public safety. Legislative changes should be based on clear evidence of risk rather than on the operating characteristics of firearms that are already tightly regulated.

Policy should be based on evidence rather than arbitrary numerical limits or restrictions. If there is evidence that a particular individual poses a risk, Tasmania's existing firearms laws already provide mechanisms for police to investigate, refuse licences, revoke licences, or seize firearms where appropriate. Broad ownership caps, reduced magazine capacities, and the reclassification of currently lawful firearms are blunt measures that target compliance rather than criminal behaviour.

I respectfully submit that no amendments should be made to:

- Introduce limits on the number of firearms a licensed individual may own.
- Reduce the lawful magazine capacities currently permitted under Tasmanian law.
- Reclassify button-release or lever-release centrefire firearms or shotguns.

The current regulatory framework already provides strong safeguards while allowing responsible firearm owners to participate in legitimate sporting, recreational, hunting, and collecting activities. Any additional restrictions would disproportionately burden law-abiding citizens without addressing the source of firearms-related crime or improving community safety.

For these reasons, I urge the Government to retain the current approach.



Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 8 July 2026 9:58 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: CONSULTATION ON THE FIREARMS AMENDMENT (MISCELLANEOUS) BILL 2026

[REDACTED]

To whom it may concern,
As a law-abiding licensed firearms owner, I'd like to share my thoughts and objections regarding the proposed amendments to the firearms laws.

Firstly, the National Firearms Register (NFR). I think this is a great idea. Agencies should have near-instant access to information about firearms and the people who own them, provided it is used for its intended purpose. It's clear there was a breakdown in the administrative side of things leading up to the Bondi tragedy, so anything that helps ensure the wrong people don't have access to firearms is a positive step.

Secondly, mandatory sentences for firearm crime. This has always been my biggest argument—it's the criminals we should be focusing on. Yes, there are occasions where licensed firearms owners do the wrong thing, and they should absolutely face the consequences of the law. However, in general, it is criminals who are committing firearm offences, and they should be the target of any new legislation and the focus of policing efforts. Scapegoating and punishing law-abiding firearms owners has little real impact on the people who are actually doing the wrong thing.

Thirdly, the proposed caps and reclassifications. This is where I become quite passionate. I believe it is completely unfair to once again confiscate, ban and further restrict firearms owned by law-abiding citizens. We went through this in 1996. I was much younger then, so it didn't affect me directly at the time, except that I lost the opportunity to inherit a brand-new semi-automatic shotgun that my grandfather had purchased for me and left to me in his will for when I was old enough to obtain my licence. After all, one firearm in the hands of a criminal or extremist is far more dangerous than multiple firearms in the possession of a law abiding licensed citizen.

To this day, I am still yet to see solid evidence that the 1996 laws—or the current proposed changes—have or will actually improve public safety. If it were clearly demonstrated that these measures would make the community safer, I would be far more supportive. Instead, I feel that once again law-abiding firearms owners are being unfairly targeted because of the actions of people who clearly should never have held firearms licences in the first place. Furthermore, even if they had not been licensed, I believe many of those individuals would still have sourced firearms illegally, as many criminals and extremists already do.

I wholeheartedly agree that Australian citizenship should be a requirement to obtain a firearms licence. I also support stronger penalties for criminals and extremists, and I believe there should be a much greater focus on preventing those people from obtaining and misusing firearms.

What makes this difficult is that all of these proposals have been bundled together into a single package of amendments. I believe the majority of people—both licensed firearms owners and members of the general public—would support many of these proposed changes. However, there are also several that many of us simply do not agree with because we do not believe they will make the public any safer. Instead, they appear to unfairly penalise law-abiding firearms owners while doing little to address those who are already willing to ignore the law.

I grew up around firearms, hunting, fishing and the outdoors. A vast majority of my favourite life memories come from spending time with my friends and family enjoying these activities. Now, with children of my own, I'm creating new memories with them that I hope they will cherish throughout their lives and, in turn, continue the tradition of responsibly providing fresh, organic meat for their own families one day.

Firearms are a tool that I use responsibly for crop protection and to ethically harvest meat for my family. Every firearm I own is securely stored, and I have always taken my legal responsibilities as a licensed firearms owner seriously.

Responsible hunters also play an important role in assisting landholders with crop protection and helping manage pest and overabundant animal populations where appropriate. This helps protect agricultural production and contributes to managing animal numbers in a practical and responsible way.

I hope that you can make a fair decision based on clear evidence and facts not public perception and political pressure.

Sincerely

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 7 July 2026 9:26 AM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Re: Changes to firearms regulations

[REDACTED]

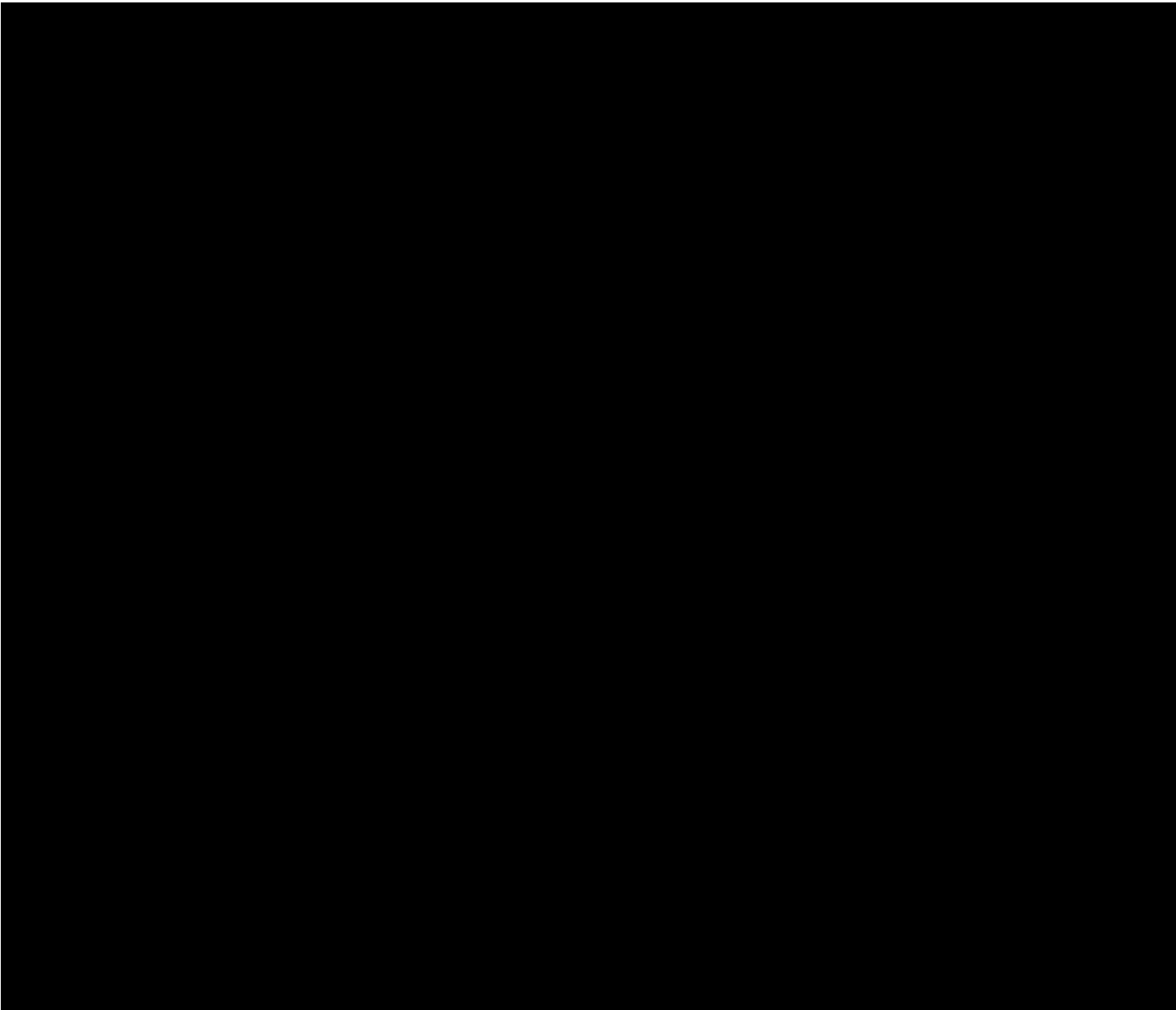
In addition to, my other comments, I would also like to look forward to possibly being pro active maybe.

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.

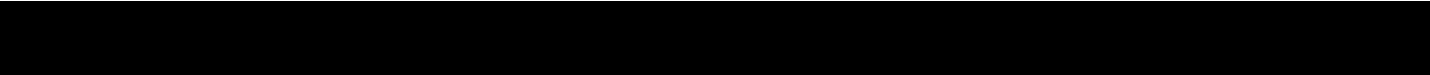
For consideration at least, as most TASPOL seizures seem to involve something 3d printed

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 July 2026 21:11
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support <Submissions.Strategy.Support@police.tas.gov.au>
Subject: Changes to firearms regulations



In review of the proposed changes,

I am for a national registration of firearms

I am also for all firearms licence holders having to be Australian citizens, i have been a citizen since 2020, the primary factor in moving from permanent residency to citizenship was the ability to own and use firearms.

I strongly and hole heartedly disagree with the reclassification of firearms. I own and frequently operate a PB release shotgun. It was a 40th birthday gift.

This reclassification would not have prevented Bondi,

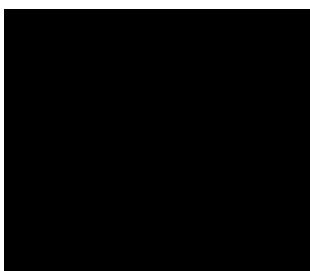
The push button and lever release restricts the shooter from achieving anywhere near the rates of fire that can be achieved with a category C firearm.

A digger in the great war could achieve 20 to 30 aimed shots with a Lee Enfield. 303, this rifle/technology is well over 120 years old. Would you also want to ban that, or move it's category from B to C?

Please consider the will of the licensed, law abiding shooter, who willingly complys with the already strict laws and not punish us for for a religious war, being fought thousands of klms from our shore.

It is also to be noted, one nation have said they will repeal gun laws bought in regarding the 2025 massacre, that is potentially 36000 votes in Tasmania alone, that will swing to a party that could be detrimental to Australia, but there are many licensees that will vote orange to keep their firearms.

For your consideration



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Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 6 July 2026 1:01 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026

[REDACTED]
To: Strategy and Support

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.

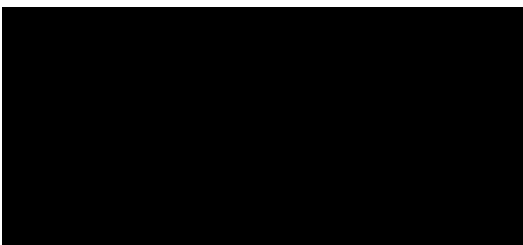
If the intention is simply to align magazine capacities across firearm categories, I suggest that air rifles warrant separate consideration due to their unique operating characteristics and substantially lower risk profile.

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,

A large black rectangular box redacting the signature and name of the person who provided the feedback.

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 7 August 2026 4:49 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Fire arms bill submission

[REDACTED]

Dear Minister,

I wish to advise that I do not support tightening of the current gun laws and restricting the current types of firearms we currently have access to.

However I do support mandatory sentences for persons who steal or found in possession of stolen firearms. It is important to focus on real punishments to deter criminals from using firearms.

I do support the national firearms registry as long as the information is only available to law enforcement.

While this submission does not focus on caps on firearms, I would like to state that I would not like to see caps put on firearms which the other parties would like to see. It is important to remember what the permit to acquire process is for and that you require a genuine reason for each firearm. Our current laws do work well.

Regards

[REDACTED]

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 7 August 2026 4:06 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Proposed changes to gun laws

[REDACTED]

To whom it may concern

I am writing to provide my feedback on the draft firearms amendment (miscellaneous) bill 2026. As a Tasmanian resident and a licensed firearm owner, I have a strong interest in ensuring our legislation balances public safety sensibly with the practical realities of legitimate firearm use.

I support the introduction of mandatory minimum sentences for the theft or illegal possession of firearms. Targeting criminal acquisition directly is a logical step to protect the community without placing undue burdens on law-abiding citizens.

The proposed reclassification of specific self-ejecting, straight-pull, and lever release firearms requires careful consideration. If reclassifications proceed, it is vital that the proposed compensation framework (aimed at 1.5 times market value) is fully honoured and delivered efficiently in cooperation with the federal buy back scheme.

I oppose the introduction of arbitrary caps on the number of firearms a licensed individual can own, as it penalises collectors, sports shooters, and primary producers who require different tools for different tasks.

Thankyou for the opportunity to have a say on this important legislation. I urge the government to ensure that the final laws remain evidence-based, proportionate, and fair.

[REDACTED]

To whom it may concern,

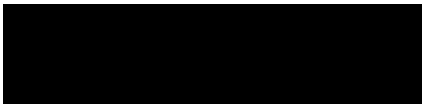
I am writing to you in response to the Amendments to the firearms bill.

As the holder of a firearms license and an avid hunter for the most the most part I agree with the amendments. I am all for harsher penalties in punishing criminals for stealing or been in possession guns or parts. I am not in complete agreement with the reclassification of straight pull/button release guns. I think button release shotguns, rim fire, and especially center fire rifles should be reclassified as I believe these are a loophole around semi auto guns and there is really no need for them in Tasmania's recreation hunting. Although I am also very involved in hunting wallaby with the use of dogs and believe the straight pull shotgun should not be reclassified it has been one of the greatest aids whilst every effort is made to make a clean shot it does not always happen and have the extra shots helps in putting down the wallaby as quick as possible. In saying this I also believe the magazine should be cap when they first arrived, they were a 4-shell magazine and now they can hold 6 to 7.

Another issue that hasn't been amended is the ease of proving your genuine reason for recreational hunting. If this whole thing is about public safety and preventing firearms from been diverted to illicit markets, then why is it so easy for people to gain a genuine reason. For example, you need to provide 2 authorities to shoot but these can be a crown land permit obtained from service Tas by paying a \$11 fee and a STT forestry permit oobtained from theirwebsite for a small fee. Why is it not compulsory for one of those authorities to be a property owner if this is their genuine reason for needing a firearm and making it harder for the gun owners who have them to be trendy or fit an image to own guns

I believe that been able to have a firearms license and possess guns to be able to recreational hunt for my fitness and metal well is a privilege and not like many who believe it is a right. If it is looked back at the latest deer season how many lawful gun owners were found to be doing the wrong thing and yet lawful gun owners are now subject to been punished when really if you're found to be doing the right thing should you not be rewarded.

Your sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026

Prepared in response to the Tasmanian Government consultation

NAME	LOCATION
EMAIL	BACKGROUND OR INTEREST
	Licensed firearm owner, recreational hunter

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Submission summary

Overall, this submission supports 6 amendments, opposes 10, is unsure about 4, and records no comment on 1.

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

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.

Suggested alternatives

- A narrower amendment focused on the identified risk.

AMENDMENT 2

Australian citizenship as the default firearms-licensing requirement

SUPPORT

Reasons given in support

- Citizenship may provide a clearer long-term connection to Australia.
- A single default rule may simplify eligibility assessments.
- Common sense

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.
- Common sense

AMENDMENT 4

Verification of borrower licence and storage

OPPOSE

Concerns that have been raised

- The law should clearly state what steps count as reasonable verification.
- Ordinary licence holders may not have reliable access to current licence-status information.
- A lender should not be exposed to liability for information they could not reasonably verify.
- The government should provide a simple official verification system before imposing the duty.

Additional comments

If a dishonest unlicensed person builds a relationship with a firearm owner and provides convincing falsified documents to a lender (fake license documentation) the lender should not be punished for the dishonest persons fraudulent activity

AMENDMENT 5

Nationally consistent firearm terminology

UNSURE

Reasons for remaining unsure

- The transition, exemption or enforcement arrangements require clarification.

Additional comments

Clearer definitions should be provided to avoid confusion

AMENDMENT 6

Clarification of firearm and firearm-part definitions

OPPOSE

Concerns that have been raised

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

AMENDMENT 7

Notification of storage away from the owner's residence

OPPOSE

Concerns that have been raised

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

Additional comments

People will normally go on a hunting trip for more than 24hrs. Notification after a week would be more sensible

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.
- One notification should update all relevant licence and registration records.

Additional comments

Sometimes a license holder may not have 24hrs notice themselves

AMENDMENT 9

Expanded authority for firearms dealer employees

SUPPORT

Reasons given in support

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

AMENDMENT 10

Seven-day Tasmanian licence application for new interstate residents

OPPOSE

Concerns that have been raised

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

Additional comments

Employment opportunities for interstate persons (especially on farmland where firearm license holders would more likely be employed) are often informal and can be subject to change so requiring such prompt applications would cause a lot of issues for both applicants and regulatory staff

AMENDMENT 11

Advance notice of changes in personal particulars

OPPOSE

Concerns that have been raised

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

Additional comments

The required notification of change to personal particulars should be based on the timeline the state/federal government can process licenses or other applications - at least a month.

AMENDMENT 12

Production of firearms for police inspection

NO COMMENT

AMENDMENT 13

Possession of stolen firearms offence and penalty

SUPPORT

Reasons given in support

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

AMENDMENT 14

Alternative conviction for possession of stolen firearms

UNSURE

Reasons for remaining unsure

- I need more evidence or detail before deciding.
- The practical effect on lawful owners is not yet clear.
- The transition, exemption or enforcement arrangements require clarification.
- Partners or family members of a firearm thief/trafficker may be punished instead

AMENDMENT 15

Summary trial option for unlawful firearms trafficking

SUPPORT

Reasons given in support

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

AMENDMENT 16

New summary offence of stealing a firearm or firearm part

OPPOSE

Concerns that have been raised

- The relationship between the summary offence and indictable crime must be clear.
- Penalty levels should reflect culpability and actual risk.
- The level of offence should be clearly stipulated by law - not the opinion of a police officer or prosecutor, in which case a more serious offence may be beneficial for them professionally.

AMENDMENT 17

Expansion of firearm prohibition orders

OPPOSE

Concerns that have been raised

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

Suggested alternatives

- It should be decided on a case by case basis. For example if a firearms dealer has had a firearms prohibition order out in place due to an unresolved personal dispute in which they are innocent, they may not be able to operate their business until the dispute is resolved - resulting in substantial professional loss

AMENDMENT 18

Magazine ammunition-capacity limits for Category A and B firearms

OPPOSE

Concerns that have been raised

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

Additional comments

Unnecessary

AMENDMENT 19

Updated identification requirements for licence applications

UNSURE

Reasons for remaining unsure

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

Additional comments

100pt identity check as with most government allications should suffice. It is often difficult to provide that level of identification as it is

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.
- Does this apply to persons under the age of 18?

AMENDMENT 21

Electronic firearms dealer record keeping

UNSURE

Reasons for remaining unsure

- The practical effect on lawful owners is not yet clear.
- The transition, exemption or enforcement arrangements require clarification.
- Firearms dealers are generally established and trusted members of their respective communities, however they are also often somewhat computer illiterate. Compulsory digital recording may force such members out of business

Additional comments

Firearms dealers are generally established and trusted members of their respective communities, however they are also often somewhat computer illiterate. Compulsory digital recording may force such members out of business. A state funded program to help trusted dealers purchase and learns the digital system should be provided at the very least.

Further suggestions

- Provide clear grandfathering, compensation and transition arrangements for owners of firearms or magazines that are currently lawful.
- Review each affected firearm type individually rather than grouping manually operated actions together without demonstrated evidence of equivalent risk.
- Increase penalties for stealing firearms or assisting firearm theft.
- Increase resources for investigating illegal firearm trafficking and unlawful possession.
- Provide grants or rebates to help lawful owners upgrade firearm storage.
- 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.
- 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.
- The vast majority of firearms license holders take their responsibilities seriously and do the right thing. It is understood that firearms theft by criminal groups/organisations is on the rise and that it presents a clear risk to the community. However, enforcing the rule of law and protecting the community is the responsibility of the police. Law abiding and responsible firearm owners should not have to take on additional responsibility/expense to reduce gun theft by organised crime because the police department divert the majority of their resources into traffic enforcement to raise revenue.

PERSONAL SUBMISSION

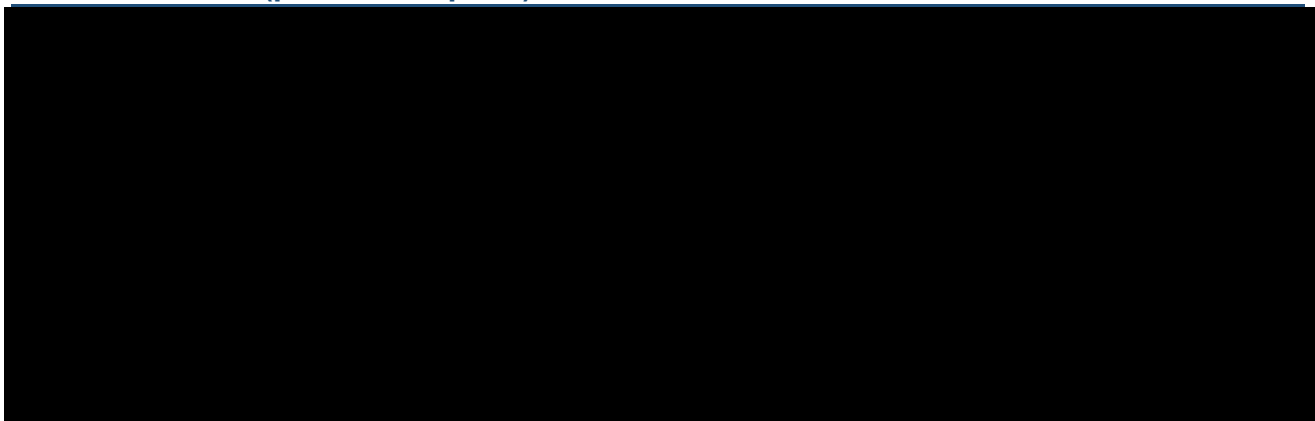
to

Strategy and Support

Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management

Regarding: Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026

YOUR DETAILS (please complete)

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1. Who I Am and Why I Am Writing

I am a licensed firearms owner in Tasmania. I use firearms lawfully for [hunting / recreational shooting / pest and feral animal control and sporting purposes. I also enjoy it as a chance to be social, plan trips around hunts and meet new people. I have undergone the required background checks, fit-and-proper-person assessment, and I comply with all storage and other obligations under the Firearms Act 1996.

I am writing as a private individual because the Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026 will directly affect me and many other ordinary, law-abiding licence holders across regional Tasmania. I support laws that properly target criminals NOT laws that lay blame to innocent gun ownership. I do not support measures that add bureaucracy, cost and inconvenience to people who already follow the rules while doing little to stop those who ignore them.

2. What I Support

I fully support the stronger penalties for stealing firearms and for being caught in possession of stolen firearms, including the proposed mandatory minimum sentences. Recent cases where law-abiding owners have been assaulted and had their guns stolen show exactly where the real problem lies. Strong action against thieves and those who put stolen firearms into criminal hands is sensible and overdue.

Any genuine effort to recover stolen firearms and prosecute the people who steal or deal in them has my support.

3. My Main Concerns with the Bill

The rest of the Bill goes after the wrong people. It piles extra paperwork, real-time notifications and expanded inspection powers onto owners who already comply, while the core issue of firearms being stolen from licensed people and ending up in criminal hands still needs focused enforcement. This fails the “pub test” for most people living and working in regional Tasmania.

3.1 Reclassification of straight-pull and lever/button-release firearms to Category C

These actions are popular with hunters because they allow practical follow-up shots in the field for pest control. There is no Tasmanian evidence that they pose a public safety risk when held by licensed, fit-and-proper people with a genuine reason.

Forcing them into Category C effectively bans them for the majority of Tasmanian shooters and will push many into a “buyback”. This punishes owners who have done nothing wrong. Many straight-pull rifles are historical pieces (pre-WWII or older) with limited magazine capacity. Treating them as a threat makes Tasmania look irrationally scared of what most people would regard as antiques.

My position: Drop the reclassification. If there are genuine safety concerns, deal with them through the existing genuine-reason and fit-and-proper tests. Any buyback must pay no less than 1.5 times market value, cover ammunition and accessories, be simple and timely, and carry no retrospective penalties.

3.2 New magazine capacity limits for Category A and B

The Bill introduces new detachable magazine limits (10 rounds for rim-fire, 5 for shotguns in Category A; 10 for centre-fire in Category B). These are new restrictions. Manually operated Category A and B firearms have not previously faced these exact limits.

My position: Remove these new limits. Criminals obtain firearms and magazines through illegal channels and will not be constrained by capacity rules on legal guns. The limits simply reduce the practicality of common hunting and pest-control firearms without proven safety benefit in Tasmania.

3.3 Citizenship as the default for licensing

Making Australian citizenship the default adds an unnecessary barrier. Responsible non-citizen owners have existed under the current system for years and have proven themselves as law-abiding as citizen holders. The proposed exemptions are too narrow and any forced buyback for existing compliant holders is unfair.

Tasmania also fails to properly recognise equivalent overseas licences. Visitors from New Zealand, the UK, Canada, the US and Europe who hold proper licences would come here to hunt or compete if the system allowed it. I mean, who from these countries would spend huge amounts of money to travel to different countries, just to act as a threat to Tasmanians? They would come here to hunt. Maybe look at people who come here from known terrorist and Islamic states on ASIO watch lists, that would be a smarter idea. The current exemption process is broken – refusals appear driven by liability concerns rather than individual assessment. This costs regional towns tourism dollars (accommodation, fuel, food, gear) for no clear safety gain.

My position: Keep practical pathways open for genuine applicants regardless of citizenship, recognise equivalent overseas licences where appropriate, and fix the exemption process so it is not blocked by pure liability concerns.

3.4 Lending rules, storage notifications and the National Firearms Register

Tying everyday lending between licensed people to an NFR verification portal creates unnecessary red tape and data exposure. There are no equivalent extra checks when lending a car or 4WD to a licensed driver – yet cars are far more dangerous to the general public. The April 2025 DPP guidelines already treat lawful lending between licensed shooters as unlikely to attract trafficking charges. That is a bandaid. The proper fix is clear legislation that allows responsible lending without treating ordinary cooperation as trafficking.

The 24-hour storage-away notification rule is impractical for multi-day pest control, farm work across properties, or leaving a rifle securely stored at a camp or hut. Real-time notification of every absence over 24 hours is pure bureaucracy that does nothing to stop criminals.

Cutting the interstate Category A/B transfer application window from three months to seven days creates an unnecessary compliance trap for people relocating for work or family.

My position: Reject the proposed lending regime. Scrap the impractical 24-hour notification requirement for hunters and rural users. Restore a workable interstate mover timeframe. Address the real privacy and security risks of the National Firearms Register – Australia has seen major government and private database breaches (Optus, Medibank, MediSecure and others). Putting detailed ownership, location and movement data into a near-real-time national system creates a tempting target without stopping criminals who operate outside the system.

3.5 Expanded inspection powers

Expanding the power so any person in possession of a firearm must produce it for inspection (new section 82A) broadens the net beyond registered owners. These changes tilt further toward more compliance checks on lawful owners without clear evidence they catch more criminals.

My position: Do not expand inspection powers beyond registered owners.

3.6 Suppressors – a hearing-protection and practical tool

Sound suppressors are occupational health and safety equipment. They significantly reduce muzzle blast, protecting the hearing of hunters and observers. They also reduce recoil, help prevent flinching, improve shot placement (more humane kills), and limit the disturbance and dispersal of other animals.

A suppressed centre-fire rifle is still around 130 dB – well above the level that causes hearing damage. They do not work like Hollywood silencers. The idea that they enable completely silent criminal activity is not supported by science or reality and should not be used to restrict what is ultimately safety equipment.

My position: Legalise and make available the use of sound suppressors for recreational hunting and legitimate pest control.

3.7 Recognition of hunters and primary producers

Law-abiding firearms owners and hunters are not the problem. We help keep feral numbers down, put affordable protein on tables, and manage land responsibly. The Act should recognise hunting and pest/feral animal control as core genuine reasons with clear pathways, expand practical Category C access for those who genuinely need it for effective control work, and treat licensed hunters as contributors to land management and game-meat utilisation rather than an afterthought or risk.

3.8 Ending reliance on Commissioner Exemptions

Many practical arrangements (such as allowing licensed interstate hunters to use their firearms while visiting Tasmania) currently rely on Exemptions issued by the Police Commissioner. Putting this power in the hands of an unelected official who can change or remove exemptions without consultation is not appropriate.

My position: Replace blanket Exemptions with explicit allowances in the Act or Regulations. Return the power to make and issue Exemptions to the Police Minister, who is an elected Member of Parliament and accountable to the citizens of Tasmania.

4. Overall View

I believe this Bill should be dropped in its current form. It creates the ability for ill-founded changes to the Firearms Act and risks further amendments from those with an agenda against law-abiding owners and hunters. Laws should define criminality rather than create it through rules that adversely affect the legitimate pursuits of licensed individuals.

I am more than willing to provide further practical input on how any genuine reforms could work without punishing people who have done nothing wrong.

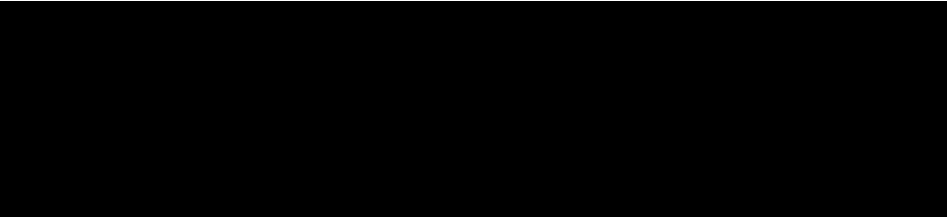
5. My Recommendations

1. Drop the reclassification of straight-pull and lever/button-release actions to Category C. Any buyback must be at no less than 1.5 times market value, simple and timely.
2. Keep practical pathways open for genuine applicants regardless of citizenship and recognise equivalent overseas licences.
3. Remove the new detachable magazine limits for Category A and B firearms.
4. Reject the proposed lending regime. Fix the trafficking legislation properly instead of relying on NFR checks.

5. Scrap the impractical 24-hour storage-away notification requirement for hunters and rural users, restore a workable interstate mover timeframe, and do not expand inspection powers beyond registered owners.
6. Keep and strengthen the penalties for theft and possession of stolen firearms, and put real effort into recovery and prosecution.
7. Address the real privacy and security risks of the National Firearms Register given Australia's history of major database breaches.
8. Properly legitimise hunters in the Firearms Act – recognise hunting and pest control as core genuine reasons, support practical Category C access where needed, and treat licensed hunters as contributors to land management and game-meat utilisation.
9. Legalise and make available the use of sound suppressors for recreational hunting and legitimate pest control.
10. Replace reliance on Commissioner Exemptions with explicit allowances in the Act or Regulations, and return exemption-making power to the Police Minister.
11. Provide proper data on how many Tasmanian firearms and owners are affected by the proposed reclassifications, magazine limits and citizenship changes, and what the projected safety outcomes actually are.

6. Closing

Law-abiding firearms owners and hunters are part of the solution for feral animal control and responsible land management. We should be recognised as such, not treated as a risk to be managed with even more paperwork. In the end, the more you take away, the more rights we have taken from us, the less life becomes enjoyable to the point of either giving up or moving to a state or country where you are still free to enjoy guns as a sport, a social system and a way of life.



Note: This is a personal template. Complete the details above, adjust any sections that do not apply to you, and submit it as your own individual submission. You may add further personal experiences or examples if you wish.

Submission on the Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026

Re: Consultation on the Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed amendments to Tasmania's Firearms Act.

I am a licensed firearms owner who supports practical, evidence-based measures that target the criminal misuse of firearms while respecting the rights and responsibilities of law-abiding licence holders. I support stronger penalties for firearm theft, illegal possession and the criminal misuse of firearms. However, I strongly oppose proposals that would further restrict firearms owned and used responsibly by licensed Tasmanians without clear evidence that such measures will improve public safety.

Evidence-Based Policy Should Be the Foundation

Legislation should be based on demonstrable evidence that:

1. A specific public safety problem exists;
2. The proposed amendments will effectively address that problem;
3. The benefits outweigh the costs imposed on lawful firearms owners; and
4. There are no less restrictive alternatives capable of achieving the same public safety outcome.

To date, I have not seen evidence demonstrating that licensed owners of straight-pull or lever-release rifles and shotguns represent a significant source of firearm crime in Tasmania or are deliberately targeted for theft. Furthermore, no data has been released indicating how many legally owned firearms in Tasmania would be affected by the proposed reclassification. Nor have I seen evidence that reclassifying these firearms would reduce violent crime, firearm theft or unlawful firearm possession.

Without this evidence, these proposals appear to regulate lawful ownership rather than address criminal behaviour. As presented, they risk becoming a symbolic policy response rather than a demonstrably effective public safety measure.

Opposition to Reclassification of Straight-Pull and Lever-Release Firearms

I strongly oppose the proposed reclassification of straight-pull and lever-release rifles and shotguns.

These firearms remain manually operated. They do not function as self-loading firearms and require a deliberate manual action between each shot. They have been legally owned by licensed shooters for many years for sporting, recreational, pest-management and primary-production purposes.

The proposal appears to focus on superficial mechanical similarities rather than actual criminal risk.

If there is evidence showing that these firearms are disproportionately used in crime in Tasmania, that evidence should be published. If such evidence does not exist, reclassification would simply remove lawfully owned property from responsible licence holders while offering little or no measurable improvement in community safety.

Opposition to Firearm Ownership Caps

I also oppose any proposal to introduce arbitrary caps on the number of firearms a licensed individual may own.

The number of firearms owned does not determine whether a person is responsible or poses a risk to the community. Tasmania already requires:

- licensing;
- genuine reasons for ownership;
- registration of every firearm;
- secure-storage requirements;
- ongoing police suitability assessments; and
- the ability to revoke licences where individuals become unsuitable.

A person with one firearm can misuse it just as readily as someone with several. Likewise, collectors, competitive shooters, farmers, hunters and firearms enthusiasts may have legitimate reasons to own multiple firearms suited to different lawful purposes.

An arbitrary numerical limit does not distinguish between responsible and irresponsible behaviour and therefore fails to target actual risk. Nor does it give any consideration to the types of firearms that make up the arbitrary limit (eg. Airguns versus Centrefire).

Focus on Criminals, Not Compliant Licence Holders

The Government has stated that these reforms are intended to improve community safety. That is an objective I support.

However, community safety is best improved by directing resources towards:

- combating illegal firearm trafficking;
- preventing firearm theft;
- prosecuting the criminal misuse of firearms; and
- enforcing existing laws against offenders.

Law-abiding licence holders already operate within one of Australia's most comprehensive regulatory systems. Increasing restrictions on those who consistently comply with the law is unlikely to affect individuals who deliberately ignore it.

Regulatory Burden Should Be Proportionate

Every additional restriction imposed on compliant firearms owners creates additional administrative costs for both licence holders and Tasmania Police.

Where proposed regulations deliver little or no measurable public safety benefit, those resources would be better invested in frontline policing and enforcement against organised crime and illegal firearms.

Good regulation should be proportionate, targeted and evidence-based.

Conclusion

I urge the Government to reconsider those elements of the Bill that impose additional restrictions on law-abiding firearms owners without clear evidence of public benefit.

The events that prompted these proposed reforms exposed failures in existing regulatory systems, including firearm registry administration and information sharing between relevant agencies. It is not evident that the proposed reclassification of manually operated firearms or the introduction of ownership caps would have prevented those events or addressed the failures that allowed them to occur.

If a compensated confiscation or mandatory surrender program were to be introduced, it would also impose a significant financial burden on the Tasmanian community. Those public funds could instead be directed towards initiatives with demonstrated public safety and community benefits, such as frontline policing, mental health services, healthcare, homelessness programs, or improvements to existing firearms registry and compliance systems.

Specifically, I request that the Government:

- reject any proposal to reclassify straight-pull or lever-release rifles and shotguns;
- reject any proposal to introduce arbitrary firearm ownership caps;
- publish the evidence relied upon to justify any restrictions affecting licensed firearm owners; and
- focus legislative reform on criminal misuse, illegal possession and firearm theft rather than additional regulation of compliant licence holders.

Tasmania has a strong culture of responsible firearm ownership. Any changes to longstanding legislation should be supported by transparent evidence demonstrating that they are both necessary and effective.

Thank you for considering my submission.