

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 1 August 2026 11:30 AM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Firearms amendment bill

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I strongly disagree with this bill & demand that it be scrapped immediately !
Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 28 July 2026 9:57 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Feedback on Firearm Act Amendments

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To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to express my serious concerns regarding the recent changes and proposed reforms to Australian firearms legislation, including arbitrary numeric ownership limits, restricted firearm categories, and increased administrative burdens placed on compliant licence holders.

While I fully support sensible, evidence-based measures to enhance community safety and reduce illicit firearm activity, the recent legislative shifts disproportionately penalise law-abiding, vetted citizens while doing little to address criminal misuse to the degree that it is warranted for their crimes. I do not agree with any of the proposed amendments to the Firearms Act 1996.

I urge you to consider the unintended, real-world consequences these policies have across three vital sectors:

1. The Impact on Law-Abiding Licensed Firearms Owners

Licensed firearm owners in Australia are among the most heavily vetted and law-abiding segments of the population. We undergo background checks, mandatory waiting periods, safety courses, and strict secure-storage inspections.

Arbitrary restrictions—such as numerical caps on firearm ownership or reclassifying standard hunting rifles—treat responsible citizens with suspicion rather than as trusted, compliant partners in public safety. Multi-gun ownership among sports shooters and hunters is rarely about volume; it reflects specialized disciplines (e.g., target shooting, clay target, rimfire vs. centerfire disciplines) where different firearms are required for different events or quarry.

2. Threat to Agriculture and Primary Producers

In the agricultural sector, firearms are indispensable tools of trade, essential for humane stock destruction, biometric predator control, and crop protection.

- **Practical Limitations:** Arbitrary caps and restrictive action-type bans ignore the reality of farming. A primary producer often requires distinct firearms tailored for specific tasks—from dispatching injured livestock swiftly and humanely at close range to managing invasive pests across vast acreage.
- **Economic Strain:** Imposing overly restrictive caps or burdensome administrative hurdles increases operational costs and delays vital farm management tasks, placing unnecessary pressure on an already challenged agricultural supply chain.

3. Disruption to Recreational Pest Control and Environmental Conservation

Recreational hunters and volunteer pest controllers provide millions of hours of unpaid labor every year to protect Australia's fragile ecosystems and agricultural yields.

- **Targeting Invasive Species:** Licensed shooters play a pivotal role in suppressing invasive species such as wild deer, feral cats, and rabbits, which cause hundreds of millions of dollars in agricultural damage annually and devastate Tasmania's unique native flora and fauna.

- **Loss of Unpaid Conservation Support:** Impairing the capacity of licensed hunters to undertake pest control shifts an immense financial burden back onto landholders and government agencies, which lack the resources to replicate this voluntary effort.

Key Recommendations for Consideration

Rather than penalizing compliant, licensed individuals, I respectfully request that the government:

1. **Focus on Illicit Firearms & Organized Crime:** Direct resources toward tackling illegal gun trafficking, smuggling, and criminal networks, rather than placing additional restrictions on vetted licence holders.
2. **Engage in Genuine Consultation:** Consult directly with agricultural peak bodies, shooting sports associations, and conservation groups to ensure future policy is evidence-based and practical.
3. **Recognise Primary Producers and Hunters as Partners:** Ensure firearm classifications and ownership limits reflect the practical needs of land management, animal welfare, and conservation efforts.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and for considering the perspectives of regional communities, primary producers, and responsible firearms owners. I look forward to your response regarding how the government plans to address these critical concerns.

Regards,

[Redacted Signature]

Recreational Hunter and Volunteer Conservationist

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 2 August 2026 3:53 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Firearms buyback

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I do not support firearms but back scheme

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 6 August 2026 12:04 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: FW: Tasmanian gun law amendment 2026 feedback [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 6 August 2026 8:56 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Tasmanian gun law amendment 2026 feedback

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

Dear Felix Ellis,

I am a legal gun holder who uses guns to hunt rats, rabbits, wallabies and hopefully in the near future deer. I am going to give examples of why I either support or dispute some of the changes put forth in the gun amendment 2026. I hope this is not just the government pretending to give shooters a say, but in reality the decisions have already been made in back room deals.

Tougher Penalties for Theft: Mandatory minimum three-month jail terms will be introduced for anyone who steals a firearm or is found in possession of a stolen gun.

I am in favour of stiffer penalties to those who are caught with a stolen firearm of any calibre. My real concern is that the judicial system will not in force the mandatory sentencing no matter what is in place. First time offender never had a bad mark on their record even though it is a mandatory minimum will it be in forced? Second why only three months? If we are trying to set an example then throw the book at these criminals that steal firearms creating a scared society. I think a one year mandatory minimum would make more sense. Three months to someone in the judicial system for stealing is not even close to a formidable punishment. Criminals that steal firearms are serious criminals therefore, should spend more than 3 months minimum sentence. Not to mention if the judge sees that the mandatory minimum is unjust the judge can then issue a lesser sentence.

Weapon Recategorisation: Straight-pull and button/lever-release centrefire rifles and shotguns will be moved to the highly restrictive Category C licence class.

My question is do the law makers know how many Straight-pull and button/lever-release centrefire rifles and shotguns are held by licensed gun holders in Tasmania? With a quick search and rough guesstimate it is less than 16000 guns and of those guns how many are already held by category C license holders? I have taken the time and the expense of getting my firearms license and have held it since 2018. I hunt on occasion would like to more but life has its priorities. I feel that getting a gun license and what it take to legally acquire a gun is full and well a tough process to begin with so eliminating a firearm that still requires a mechanical motion by the operator does not constitute a reclassification.

The core philosophical objection is that recategorisation targets the wrong demographic.

Moving these firearms to Category C or D effectively penalizes legal owners for crimes they did not commit. It strips them of property they purchased legally under existing frameworks, while doing nothing to deter criminals who acquire their weapons exclusively through illicit, black-market channels.

I argue that lawmakers are conflating modern engineering with semi-automatic capabilities. A semi-automatic firearm uses the energy of the fired cartridge to automatically eject the spent casing, chamber a new round, and cock the action without manual intervention. Straight-pull and lever-release firearms require a deliberate, physical action by the shooter for every single shot. Grouping manual-repeating firearms with semi-automatics is a false equivalence based on aesthetics and ergonomics rather than actual mechanics. A fast shooter can operate a traditional bolt-action or lever-action rifle at a similar speed, meaning the "rate of fire" justification is flawed and arbitrary.

A lack of evidence that these weapons are used in serious crimes or sought after strongly relies on the absence of specific evidence. There is virtually no data showing that straight-pull or lever/button-release firearms are disproportionately used in violent crimes or mass casualty events in Australia. Legislation should be evidence-based and responsive to demonstrated public

safety threats. Recategorising these firearms is a preemptive, ideological measure solving a problem that does not exist in the actual crime statistics.

Statewide Buyback Scheme: Affected weapon owners will be compensated via a government buyback program offering 1.5 times the market value for newly reclassified weapons.

I see this as a burden to the Tasmania tax payer. Omit the reclassification of these firearms and no need to burden non shooters or non licensed gun holders to pay for something that has no proof of eliminating theft. 1.5 times the market value is hardly a benefit to someone to give up a firearm. How about the fees incurred while purchasing in the first place and not to mention the ammunition that person will be holding for the reclassified firearm. It is hardly a win for the person selling the firearm back.

Citizenship Requirements: Default eligibility for a firearm licence will require Australian citizenship, with specific exemptions for New Zealand citizens engaged in primary production.

No issues whatsoever.

Stricter Storage Notification: Licence holders must notify [Tasmania Police](#) at least 24 hours before moving a firearm to a new storage location where it will stay for over 24 hours.

There are rules in place in regard to storage and transporting firearms. My issue is having to notify police even if going on an over night hunting trip. The

police are already stretched to thin to be worrying about legal gun owners going hunting for a week or even over night. This again is just another form of over reaching by law makers inconveniencing those legal license holders.

Perhaps by implementation of the NRA police can better understand how few guns that want to be reclassified are actually registered in Tasmania. Doing a quick search with a high estimate there is only approximately 15700 firearms that would need to be reclassified.

Lending Restrictions: On-lending registered weapons to a third party firearms can only be shared with a second person who has the matching licence category and storage setup.

No issues whatsoever.

Magazine Restrictions: Detachable magazine limits will be introduced for Category A and Category B rifles.

Again this is over reaching the boundaries. To tell a hunter you can only take X number of magazines out on a hunt of say wallabies on an evening of shooting is unjust. I can shoot up to 50 wallabies in an evening there are already limits to how many rounds a magazine can hold now you want to limit how many of those magazines one can carry? The only thing you're doing is wasting a shooters time by having to reload the limited number of magazines he has on hand. Or again say a person (recreational hunter)is camping for a week (his annual holiday once a year) and shooting feral deer to limit his ability to shoot is restrictive and unjustified. To make these

changes to legitimate gun owners is just plain wrong. Perhaps we should limit how many fish hooks a fisherman can take on a given fishing trip as well.

National Register Alignment: The state's administrative systems are being updated to sync with the upcoming Australian National Firearms Register.

This is baffling to me in the age of computers and technology how is this not been implemented already? Perhaps because it is easier to make new laws and restrict legal gun owners than it is to hold government accountable for lack of responsibility for letting mass shootings happen in the first place.

In summary there are things I don't mind happening:

Mandatory Minimum Sentences for those thieves caught with guns 1 year NOT three months.

Weapon Recategorisation There is just not enough data to prove reclassification of a particular firearm will prevent gun theft. How about mandatory continuing education every time you renew your gun license?

Statewide Buyback Scheme Get rid of the recategorisation and you won't need to waste taxpayer dollars on taking away legal gun owners firearms.

Stricter Storage Notification I feel only if a firearm is being stored off registered owners address for longer than 3 weeks should there be any notification to change in storage location.

Lending Restrictions

No issues

Magazine Restrictions Absolutely oppose magazine restrictions. There are already limits to how many rounds a magazine can hold, by limiting how many magazines a hunter can take. The hunter is doing nothing but wasting hunting time by having to reload the limited number of magazines he/she has.

I value my gun ownership and find it has been hard to get a license and having to justify why I want a firearm. Amending laws that are already in place to limit or reduce one's ability to have certain firearms is unjust. I look at my firearms as tools each one has a specific ability and serves a specific purpose. Just like fishing poles each one does different things you wouldn't take a deep sea rod trout fishing? By law I cannot hunt a deer with any calibre less than a .270 and I surely would not shoot a wallaby with a .270 I hope you consider my values and opinions on gun ownership and the amendments you are voting on changing. I strongly recommend if you are not a shooter or gun owner please do yourself a favour and go and educate yourself before voting with your feelings. Laws should be based on evidence not emotional values.

Thank you for your evidence based decision.

[REDACTED]

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Mr Felix Ellis,

I own a rural property in [REDACTED] and use a careful selection of firearms for property management, vermin / pest control , animal welfare, food gathering and I also enjoy recreational hunting. For some of us, firearms are part of our lives and the responsible use of them is passed onto our children as they come of the required age as many of us can attest to.

I strongly oppose the proposed changes to the already stringent Tasmanian firearms act, except for the requirement of Australian citizenship and Tasmanian residency.

I raise the question of why law abiding citizens with clean records should be increasingly restricted, disadvantaged, scrutinized and over governed because of crimes committed by violent criminals such as the Bondi shooting incident, I bet that wasn't committed by a respectful middle aged Australian born farmer!

Every time we are unfortunate enough to hear about a shooting incident on the mainstream media, after sharing a thought for the victims families our next thoughts are ; which politician is going to take the easy way out and score themselves a point by announcing that they are going to tighten gun laws?

It utterly amazes me at their lack of comprehension of the situation, tightening the laws has already proven ineffective and does not rectify the problem, consider the term 'law', the people like us that abide by the law are not the problem.

The problem is the violent criminals that do not care about the law, so why restrict it more so?

A much better approach would be to focus more on criminal activity i.e. illegal firearms (the ones that criminals use), organized crime. Trafficking, border control, repeat violence offenders and mentally unstable people. It would take more effort than writing new laws, but it would actually make a difference.

National Firearms Register (NFR), I see this as a security concern that our information will be placed on an electronic national data base and I am concerned for my families safety if the NFR comes to fruition.

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

Genuine reasons for ownership,

Each time our firearm licences are due for renewal, we have to once again provide reasons to maintain our licence categories and ownership of the guns we possess.

Considering the initial stringent process that we have to adhere to when applying for our licence categories and acquiring our firearms, why do we have to be continually scrutinised?

Regardless of whether you currently use all categories at renewal time, long term respectful firearm owners without any significant breaches like myself should only have to renew their licence to maintain their status, this would also free up some time for the firearms team to focus more on criminal activity.

Category B to C change for straight pull.

Changing the category of these guns will not stop criminals from committing the crimes, once again they tend not to consider the law.

However, it will disadvantage a significant number of law abiding firearm owners that may not qualify for a category C endorsement. Firearm owners should not have to surrender a gun after following the already stringent legal acquisition process when they haven't committed a crime.

Straight pull operation.

I question the integrity of the information provided on the operation of straight pull action shot guns.

I currently own a Tactical grip straight pull 12 gauge shot gun and find the straight pull reloading mechanism to be slow and sometimes temperamental, however I persevere with it due to the fact that I have spinal issues and the tactical lower grip reduces recoil into my shoulder and thoracic spine.

Consultation with real world everyday users in the field and reputable clubs or groups would be advisable rather than what seems like advice from consultants with little or no experience.

Silencers \ mufflers.

We should encourage the use of mufflers like some other parts of the world.

They are viewed in Australia in the wrong context should be considered a safety device, being illegal here will not stop a criminal from fabricating and using one.

Most shooters now use earmuffs or plugs for hearing protection; however this reduces your awareness of your surroundings thus possibly creating a safety issue especially in groups.

It would also be an advantage to use mufflers during vermin / pest control around livestock properties to reduce stress to livestock.

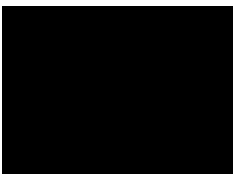
Please consider that laws are only effective if people abide by them and our firearm laws are already strict enough.

By enforcing the existing laws, providing the necessary punishment and focusing our law enforcement resources on criminal activity, it would have a profound effect.

I ask that you please do not support the proposed changes to the Firearm laws.

A written response to this letter in a timely manner would be appreciated.

Regards,



Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 4 August 2026 9:04 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Please oppose further restrictions on lawful firearm owners

[REDACTED]
To Whom it may concern,

I am writing as a concerned Tasmanian to ask that you do not support proposed changes to firearm laws that unfairly impact law-abiding firearm owners, hunters, farmers, clubs and outdoor recreation supporters.

Clubs provide safe and supervised environments, support volunteers and families, and contribute to regional communities. Firearms are also practical tools for farmers, landholders and hunters who rely on them for pest control, land management and food gathering.

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

Shooting and hunting are important parts of life for myself and many Tasmanians.

My partner and I live on a [REDACTED] farm where we do a lot of vermin control which we are also able to use for dog meat.

[REDACTED] I believe if you were to reclassify firearms and to minimise magazine capacity this will put a heavy downfall on sales [REDACTED]

As well as vermin control and deer hunting I was wanting to join a club to do target shooting and clay birds.

If Gun Caps were to be put in place, narrowing down a selection of 5 would make this a very tough decision.

Caps on firearms will also make this very hard for people who already have the maxamine firearms and are then handed down family heirlooms from Deceased estates.

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

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

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 4 August 2026 4:03 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Opposal of firearm amendments

[REDACTED]
Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to express my opposition to several elements of the proposed Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026.

While I support measures that directly target criminal activity and improve public safety, I have serious concerns that many aspects of this Bill will unnecessarily burden law-abiding firearms owners without delivering meaningful safety outcomes.

I support the following proposals within the Bill:

Stronger penalties for the theft of firearms, Legislative measures that are clearly aimed at deterring and punishing criminal and terrorist misuse of firearms

However, I oppose the following proposed changes:

Reclassification of straight-pull and lever/button-release centre-fire rifles and shotguns to Category C

Introduction of new detachable magazine limits on Category A and B firearms

Making Australian citizenship the default requirement for a firearms licence

Restrictive lending requirements that mandate National Firearms Register verification

The requirement to notify authorities within 24 hours when a firearm is stored away from the registered address

Reduction of the interstate Category A/B transfer period from three months to seven days

Expansion of inspection powers to include any person in possession of a firearm

Real-time notification and verification requirements associated with the National Firearms Register

Continued reliance on broad discretionary exemptions by the Commissioner rather than clear, consistent legislation

My reasons for opposition are as follows:

Straight-pull and lever/button-release firearms are widely used for legitimate purposes such as hunting and pest control. There is no evidence specific to Tasmania demonstrating that these firearms pose a heightened risk to public safety when owned and used by licensed individuals.

Reclassifying them would unfairly impact responsible owners and, in some cases, result in the loss of historically significant firearms with limited capacity.

The proposed magazine restrictions for Category A and B firearms do not appear to be supported by evidence demonstrating improved public safety outcomes. Such measures are unlikely to affect criminal behaviour, as individuals who engage in illegal activities do not adhere to regulatory limits.

Requiring Australian citizenship as a default condition for firearm licensing raises concerns regarding fairness and proportionality, particularly for long-term residents who meet all other suitability requirements.

The proposed lending and National Firearms Register verification requirements introduce

unnecessary administrative burdens for lawful firearm owners without clear evidence of benefit.

Similarly, the 24-hour storage notification rule is impractical for those engaged in legitimate rural activities such as multi-day pest control or farm work.

The National Firearms Register itself raises concerns regarding data security. Centralised, real-time systems may present an attractive target for cyberattacks, particularly in light of recent high-profile data breaches in Australia.

Finally, reliance on broad discretionary powers rather than clear legislative standards reduces transparency and consistency in the application of the law.

In summary, I urge the Government to focus legislative efforts on measures that directly address criminal misuse of firearms, rather than imposing additional restrictions on responsible, licensed firearm owners.



Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026

Prepared in response to the Tasmanian Government
consultation

NAME	LOCATION
EMAIL	BACKGROUND OR INTEREST
	Licensed firearms owner, hunter

Prepared 4 August 2026

Tas Firearms Submission Builder

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Submission summary

Overall, this submission supports 9 amendments, opposes 6, is unsure about 2, and records no comment on 4.



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.

Suggested alternatives

- More targeted enforcement against unlawful possession.

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.

AMENDMENT 3

Restriction on on-lending firearms

OPPOSE

Concerns that have been raised

- Legitimate club, farm or family arrangements may sometimes involve practical transfers between licensed people.

Suggested alternatives

- More targeted enforcement against unlawful possession.

AMENDMENT 4

Verification of borrower licence and storage

SUPPORT

Reasons given in support

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

AMENDMENT 5

Nationally consistent firearm terminology

SUPPORT

Reasons given in support

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

AMENDMENT 6

Clarification of firearm and firearm-part definitions

NO COMMENT

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.

Suggested alternatives

- More targeted enforcement against unlawful possession.

AMENDMENT 8

Notification before changing residential address

SUPPORT

Reasons given in support

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

AMENDMENT 9

Expanded authority for firearms dealer employees

SUPPORT

Reasons given in support

- It may improve practical business operation and staffing flexibility.

AMENDMENT 10

Seven-day Tasmanian licence application for new interstate residents

NO COMMENT

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.

Suggested alternatives

- More targeted enforcement against unlawful possession.

AMENDMENT 12

Production of firearms for police inspection

SUPPORT

Reasons given in support

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

AMENDMENT 13

Possession of stolen firearms offence and penalty

UNSURE

Reasons for remaining unsure

- I need more evidence or detail before deciding.

AMENDMENT 14

Alternative conviction for possession of stolen firearms

NO COMMENT

AMENDMENT 15

Summary trial option for unlawful firearms trafficking

NO COMMENT

AMENDMENT 16

New summary offence of stealing a firearm or firearm part

SUPPORT

Reasons given in support

- It may reduce unnecessary higher-court proceedings.

AMENDMENT 17

Expansion of firearm prohibition orders

UNSURE

Reasons for remaining unsure

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

AMENDMENT 18

Magazine ammunition-capacity limits for Category A and B firearms

OPPOSE

Concerns that have been raised

- The government should publish evidence linking affected magazine capacities to Tasmanian crime risk.
- Limits may have little effect on criminals using stolen or prohibited firearms.
- Secure storage and theft prevention may better address diversion risk.

Suggested alternatives

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

AMENDMENT 19

Updated identification requirements for licence applications

SUPPORT

Reasons given in support

- Modern identity standards may reduce fraud.

AMENDMENT 20

Three-month mandatory minimum imprisonment for stolen-firearm offences

OPPOSE

Concerns that have been raised

- Evidence should show that current sentencing is inadequate before judicial discretion is removed.

Suggested alternatives

- More targeted enforcement against unlawful possession.
- Clearer exemptions or transition arrangements.
- A narrower amendment focused on the identified risk.

AMENDMENT 21

Electronic firearms dealer record keeping

SUPPORT

Reasons given in support

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

Further suggestions

- Require all firearm safes to be securely affixed to the floor and/or wall.
- Modernise firearm storage laws, including clearer requirements for anchoring safes and preventing whole-safe theft.
- Prioritise theft prevention, secure storage and enforcement against unlawful possession before imposing broad reclassifications on lawful owners.
- Publish the evidence relied upon for each firearm reclassification and explain the expected public-safety benefit.
- 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.

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 4 August 2026 1:10 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Proposed firearm legislation changes

[REDACTED]

The Tasmanian government and unelected bureaucrats love pushing buttons. We saw it with the food donation rules. Now they're doing it again with the Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026.

I need your help writing submissions before the deadline.

Email your submission to:
submissions.strategy.support@dpfem.tas.gov.au

I do not approve of the proposed changes
What I do support is :

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

We oppose

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

Key reasons

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

Thank you

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 4 August 2026 12:35 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Amendment to proposed firearm law

[REDACTED]

For you attention and consideration.

I strongly oppose this amendment on the grounds that no evidence provided can or will make it safer for the community.

This is a case of a blatant infringement on Tasmanian lifestyle and privileges and serve no purpose on curving crime or public safety.

The failures of the NSW Police ,AFP and the current NSW Labour government should NOT be used to implement any amendments to the Tasmanian firearm laws .

All these amendments do is punish Innocent law abiding citizens of Tasmania as stated by the Tasmanian Government and Tasmanian Minister of Police.

[REDACTED]

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 4 August 2026 12:00 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Firearms Act Amendments Consultation Submission

[REDACTED]

The following are my comments on the proposed amendments to the Firearms Act.

In the FAQs the response to the question "Do I have to notify of a change of address if I am hunting for a weekend (more than 24 hours) ?" is confusing. The statement "at the address" second occurring is not clear whether its the licensee's home address or the hunting address. Tasmanians hunt for weeks at a time in Tasmania, mainland Australia and overseas, particularly in New Zealand where temporary firearms licences can be obtained over the internet before arrival.

I am a supporter of the legalisation of the use of sound suppressors primarily for OH&S reasons. Their use is legal in the UK and New Zealand for those reasons.

Following the numbering in the Consultation Information Sheet:-

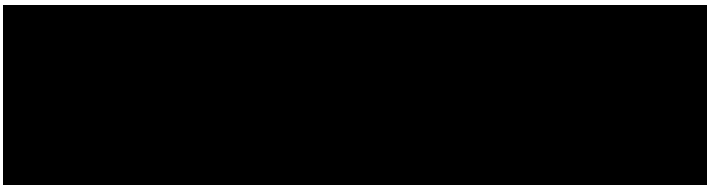
1. Reclassification of straight pull and button/lever firearms to Category C is supported.
2. Establishing Australian or New Zealand citizenship as a default requirement is supported in principle but consideration needs to be given to non-citizen permanent residents of good character who don't hold Australian citizenship because their country of birth prohibits dual citizenship. There needs to be a robust process of assessment including for migrants to Australia who own firearms.
3. The restriction on the lending of firearms is supported.
4. The person lending must be satisfied that the borrower's licence is valid, is supported.
5. Definition changes e.g. pistol to handgun, are supported.
6. Clarification of definitions e.g. firearm, are supported.
7. Storage at other than registered owner's address to be notified to Police if period greater than 24 hours. I suggest that this is problematic. If I lend the firearm to a person who is keeping it in his safe at home, this is fine. But if I lend a firearm to a person to go away hunting for a week in the Tasmanian bush, on mainland Australia or hunting in New Zealand I must notify Tasmania Police even though I may not know the exact geographical location of the firearm (on any given day) ?

8. Change of residential address and storage. The Information Sheet paragraph is inconsistent with Section 19 of the Amendment (section 46 ba and bb of the 1996 Act). The Information Sheet says "notify.... 24 hours before that change of address, or as soon as practicable after that change is made." However the Amendment says "no later than 24 hours afterwards".
9. Firearms dealers employees. Proposal seems sensible.
10. Moving to Tasmania. Seven days to apply for a Tasmanian licence is an unreasonably short period. Moving residences in the same city/state is a stressful event. Moving interstate is significantly more stressful when a firearm owner may inadvertently miss the seven days and thus unintentionally break the law. I suggest 14 days is more reasonable and realistic.

In the licence application process an increased time allowance needs to be made for the availability of the firearms training course. Proof of enrolment should suffice as a holding position pending completion and issue of a licence.

11. Notify Police 7 days before a change in personal particulars. What comprises "personal particulars" ? Where is it defined ?
What if the change does not then occur ?
12. Person in possession of a firearm must produce to Police on demand. Supported.
13. To 16. Increased penalties are supported.
17. Prohibition Order to apply to firearms parts, ammunition and suppressors is supported.
18. Magazine limits for Cat A and B supported.
19. Updated identification requirements. On the assumption that this refers to amendments to section 28 of the Principal Act, I support it.
20. Mandatory minimum sentences for stealing a firearm or in possession of stolen firearms is supported.
21. Electronic dealer records is supported.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.



Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 4 August 2026 8:23 AM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Gun laws

[REDACTED]

I wish to protest at some of the proposed changes that unfairly target lawfully licensed firearm owners. I support all measures that will target criminal activity involving firearms.
Thanks for your consideration.

[REDACTED]

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 3 August 2026 9:35 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: firearm bill

[REDACTED]

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to make a submission regarding the proposed changes to Tasmania's firearms legislation.

I support stronger laws that target criminal misuse of firearms. This includes stronger penalties for stealing firearms, stronger penalties and mandatory minimum sentences for possessing stolen firearms, and measures that focus on organized crime, terrorism, and those who deliberately misuse firearms.

However, I oppose proposals that place additional restrictions on licensed, law-abiding firearms owners without clear evidence that they will improve public safety.

In particular, I oppose:

- The reclassification of straight-pull and lever/button-release center-fire rifles and shotguns to Category C.
- New detachable magazine limits on Category A and B firearms.
- Making Australian citizenship the default requirement for obtaining a firearms license.
- Restrictive lending rules requiring National Firearms Register verification between licensed firearm owners.
- Mandatory 24-hour notification whenever a firearm is stored away from its registered address.
- Reducing the interstate Category A and B transfer period from three months to seven days.
- Expanded inspection powers applying to anyone merely in possession of a firearm.
- Mandatory real-time National Firearms Register notification and verification requirements.
- Continued reliance on broad Commissioner exemptions instead of clear and consistent legislation.

These proposals place additional burdens on responsible license holders while doing little to deter criminals, who by definition do not comply with firearms laws.

Straight-pull and lever/button-release firearms are commonly used by farmers, hunters, and recreational shooters for legitimate purposes, including pest control. I am not aware of any Tasmanian evidence demonstrating that these firearms present an increased public safety risk when owned by licensed individuals. Reclassifying them would unnecessarily affect responsible owners and, in some cases, devalue or effectively prohibit historically significant firearms.

Similarly, imposing new magazine capacity restrictions on Category A and B firearms has not been shown to improve public safety. Criminals who acquire firearms illegally are unlikely to comply with magazine restrictions, meaning these measures primarily impact those who already obey the law.

I also have concerns regarding the National Firearms Register. While maintaining accurate records is important, creating a centralized real-time register raises legitimate cybersecurity and privacy concerns, particularly given the number of significant data breaches that have occurred across Australia in recent years. Any national system should demonstrate that these risks have been carefully addressed before implementation.

The proposed 24-hour notification requirement for temporary firearm storage is also impractical for many legitimate users, including those involved in multi-day pest control, rural work, hunting, and travel. The administrative burden outweighs any demonstrated public safety benefit.

Tasmania has a strong record of responsible firearms ownership. Licensed firearm owners already meet rigorous licensing, background checking, safe storage, and compliance requirements. Future legislative changes should be evidence-based, proportionate, and focused on those who commit criminal offences rather than imposing additional restrictions on responsible members of the community.

I respectfully ask the Government to reject proposals that unnecessarily burden licensed firearm owners and instead prioritize laws that directly target criminal behavior and improve public safety through evidence-based policy.

Thank you for considering my submission.

regards ,

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 3 August 2026 8:59 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Firearms legislation

[REDACTED]

Good day ,

"I oppose any changes in Tasmania that aren't going after criminals." Reclassification's are not evidence based and targeting law abiding citizens. Thanyou Sent from my iPhone

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 1 August 2026 10:27 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Firearms amendment bill

[REDACTED]
I [REDACTED] disagree with this new firearms amendment bill as this does not target criminals and only hurts the lawful owners of firearms.

No to compulsory firearm buybacks.

No to reclassification of lawfully owned firearms.

Regards

[REDACTED]

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 1 August 2026 7:36 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Firearms Bill

[REDACTED]

I am writing to express my **concern** regarding the proposed changes to the Firearms Act. As a law-abiding firearm owner, I believe responsible owners should not be unfairly burdened by measures that may have limited impact on criminal activity.

Licensed firearm owners already comply with stringent requirements, including background checks, secure storage obligations, and ongoing regulatory oversight. Any legislative changes should be evidence-based, proportionate, and developed in consultation with affected stakeholders.

I respectfully ask that you consider the views of responsible firearm owners and ensure that any reforms focus on reducing criminal misuse of firearms while **preserving the rights** and interests of those who comply with the law.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to your response.

Please be advised should this unfair legislation be supported by the government I will never again vote Liberal again.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 1 August 2026 6:33 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Firearms submissions

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

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

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

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

Where additional restrictions are proposed, the evidentiary basis for those measures should be clearly demonstrated through publicly available research or crime data showing that the proposed changes are likely to achieve their stated objective. Public policy should be informed by evidence and proportionality, particularly where it affects responsible citizens who already comply with extensive regulatory requirements.

Magazine Capacity Restrictions

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

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

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

Recategorisation of Straight-Pull and Lever-Release Firearms

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

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

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

Given the timing of these proposed reforms following the Bondi tragedy, it is particularly important that any legislative changes be supported by comprehensive evidence demonstrating an ongoing public safety risk associated with these firearm types, rather than being influenced by responses to isolated high-profile incidents. Permanent legislative reform should be based on robust evidence and long-term public safety outcomes.

Notification of Temporary Storage

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

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

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

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

Focus on the Causes of Violent Crime

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

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

This includes:

- Improving access to mental health services and early intervention.
- Identifying and disrupting violent extremist ideologies of all forms.
- Targeting organised crime and illegal firearm trafficking.
- Increasing penalties for firearm theft and possession of stolen firearms.
- Ensuring police have the resources to investigate and prosecute serious offenders.

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

Preserving Individual Freedom

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

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

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

Conclusion

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

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

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the *Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026* not proceed in its current form and that any future reforms be supported by clear evidence demonstrating that they will materially improve public safety.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Yours faithfully,



Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 28 July 2026 2:27 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Consultation on the Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026

[REDACTED]

Dear Review Committee,

I am writing as a Tasmanian landholder and licensed firearm owner [REDACTED] to lodge my formal submission opposing the proposed reclassification and effective ban of lever/button-release (commonly referred to as "push-button") firearms in Tasmania.

I own these firearms and use them responsibly on my [REDACTED] property for essential pest animal control. These tools are practical and humane for managing pest species that cause severe damage to pastures, gardens, horticultural crops, trees and livestock. The efficiency of these actions makes a significant difference to animal welfare and operational effectiveness, particularly when managing land alone.

Under the proposed changes, these firearms would move to Category C. This reclassification fundamentally misaligns with the legal framework of Category C, which is explicitly intended for self-loading and pump-action mechanisms. Button-release firearms are distinctly different; they are entirely manually operated and require a separate physical action by the user to chamber every single round.

Like many small-scale landholders, I do not qualify for a Category C licence, nor should I be forced to pursue one. The current Category C requirements are restrictive, burdensome, and designed for large-scale primary producers. Removing access to button-release firearms leaves small landholders with fewer effective tools, despite a flawless record of safe and compliant ownership. Managing species like wallabies with a traditional bolt-action rifle or an under-over shotgun while working alone is exhausting, inefficient, and less humane.

Furthermore, the proposed buyback arrangements are deeply flawed. Many constituents in my region purchased these firearms in good faith, complying with all licensing and storage laws. The indicative buyback prices fall well short of the true market value of these firearms and ignore their utility as essential land management tools. Compensating owners at a fraction of the value feels punitive rather than fair.

This legislation is creating widespread resentment among rural residents. Law-abiding citizens feel treated as a public safety problem rather than respected stakeholders. This alienation is already actively eroding trust in government and long-term community political engagement.

I ask the committee to consider that these proposed bans:

- **Target the Wrong Group:** They restrict compliant owners rather than addressing criminal misuse, illicit firearm trafficking, or extremism.

- **Lack Evidence:** Data shows overall firearm numbers have risen while crimes involving legal firearms have declined. A firearm's mechanical action type does not dictate criminal intent, as public safety risks stem from unlawful intent rather than specific compliant mechanism designs.
- **Harm Animal Welfare:** Slower, manually cycled pest control is less effective and increases animal distress during culling operations.
- **Create Unjustified Public Expense:** The buyback scheme spends significant public funds to confiscate legally acquired property without a proven public safety benefit.
- **Repeat Inter-State Mistakes:** Similar sweeping restrictions in Western Australia caused immense political resentment without delivering clear, data-backed safety outcomes.

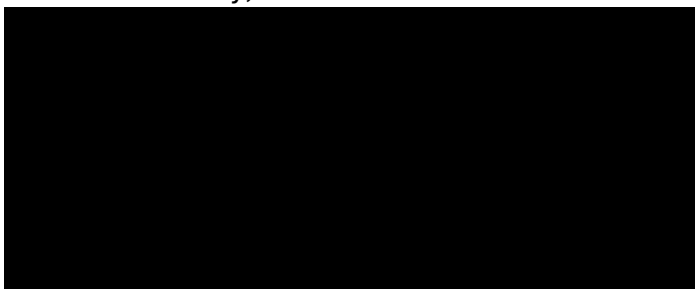
International models, such as Switzerland, demonstrate that robust screening and vetting systems—rather than arbitrary mechanical restrictions—are the true drivers of public safety. As a firearm owner, I find it exhausting hearing repeated policy comparisons to the United States. The USA operates under a vastly different constitutional system and possesses deep socioeconomic differences that make any such comparisons entirely flawed and irrelevant to the strict, highly regulated licensing framework we already comply with in Australia.

Effective public policy must be built on evidence and common sense. Class restrictions hold little objective merit when data confirms that further restrictions on compliant individuals do not control criminal behaviour or enhance public safety.

Tasmania has historically maintained a balanced, practical approach to firearm regulation that respects both community safety and rural realities. I respectfully ask that the committee advocates for evidence-based policy, opposes these restrictive classifications, and focuses enforcement efforts on criminal activity rather than further restricting compliant Tasmanians.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this submission.

Yours sincerely,



Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 27 July 2026 1:04 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: CONFIDENTIAL OPPOSITION: Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026 - [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

27/07/2026

Dear Consultation Team,

I am writing to formally lodge my opposition to several provisions contained within the consultation draft of the *Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026*.

While I support targeted, evidence-based measures to secure public safety, parts of this Bill rely on flawed logic that penalizes law-abiding citizens instead of addressing actual systemic gaps. My objections focus specifically on the mechanical reclassifications in Part 2 and the misaligned policy reasoning driving them.

1. Mechanical Inconsistency in the Amendments to Sections 14, 15, and 16 of the Principal Act

The Bill seeks to amend the Principal Act by inserting explicit definitions for a "button or lever release firearm" and a "straight pull action firearm" under Section 5. It subsequently excludes them from Category A licenses (**Section 14 of the Principal Act**, via Clause 8 of the Bill) and Category B licenses (**Section 15 of the Principal Act**, via Clause 9 of the Bill), to force their inclusion into Category C (**Section 16 of the Principal Act**, via Clause 10 of the Bill).

This reclassification is a fundamental mechanical contradiction. By the Bill's own statutory definition in Section 5(p), a straight-pull action firearm is one where the action is cycled using a "*linear motion on a handle, bolt or other part*." It relies entirely on physical human intervention to extract, feed, and lock a cartridge. It is, by definition, a manually operated firearm that requires an individual, deliberate physical act by the shooter to chamber each individual round.

Historically, Category C under the National Firearms Agreement was established strictly to restrict *self-loading* (semi-automatic) actions due to their rapid, automated firing capabilities. Forcing a manually operated, linear-bolt action into Category C completely misrepresents the mechanical operation of the tool.

Furthermore, because Category C access is legally restricted to specific occupational groups like primary producers, this change completely eliminates ownership pathways for sport and recreational shooters. This arbitrary shift will disenfranchise an estimated 98% of current licensed Tasmanian firearm owners who legally hold these compliant tools, effectively forcing a mass surrender of private property.

This heavy-handed approach directly contradicts public statements made by the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management, the Hon. Felix Ellis, who has consistently stated that “*Law-abiding firearm owners are not the problem, criminals and terrorists are.*” This position is thoroughly supported by official findings from the Bondi tragedy, which identified systemic failures in administrative communication and agency intelligence rather than deficiencies in lawful firearm mechanics. Reclassifying manually operated rifles does nothing to impact criminals or terrorists, who operate entirely outside the regulatory framework. It succeeds only in targeting and punishing the very citizens who have spent years maintaining flawless compliance with our state's laws.

2. Misdirection of Resources: Bondi and Inter-Jurisdictional Intelligence

The public justification linking these changes within the *Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026* to the tragedy in Bondi is fundamentally flawed. Post-incident reviews by law enforcement and state ministers have universally confirmed that Bondi exposed severe failures in **inter-jurisdictional intelligence sharing**, communication gaps between state police agencies, and shortcomings in cross-border background checks.

The appropriate mechanism to fix this is administrative, data-driven reform. In fact, this Bill attempts to address this via Section 29(e) by broadening the scope of background checks to include an “*intelligence report or other information*” and via Section 29(b) by integrating with the “*National Authority*” (Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission).

Improving real-time intelligence data sharing is a targeted solution. However, taking compliant, manually operated straight-pull firearms away from vetted Tasmanian shooters does absolutely nothing to fix a data breakdown between interstate police agencies. It punishes local citizens for a bureaucratic failure that should have never occurred if the current policies in place were followed.

3. Inadequate Buyback Compensation and Unfair Financial Losses for Owners

Because these firearms were lawfully purchased and registered under Category A and B frameworks, forcing them into Category C will trigger a mandatory buyback scheme. Beyond wasting millions of taxpayer dollars, this process will inflict compounding, unrecoverable financial losses on law-abiding Tasmanians:

- **Disparity Between Compensation and Replacement Costs:** Historically, government buyback schedules rely on rigid, depreciated price matrices that fall drastically short of real-world market values. A licensed owner surrendering a reclassified rifle will receive compensation well below market value, while the cost to purchase a compliant, modern replacement rifle in today's retail market will be significantly higher due to inflation and supply chain costs.
- **Sunk Costs in Accessories and Modifications:** Firearms owners invest heavily in custom components—such as precision barrels, match triggers, custom stocks, ambidextrous furniture, and dedicated mounting systems—tailored specifically to straight-pull or lever-release platforms. Buyback schemes routinely fail to compensate for these integrated

modifications or specialized reloading equipment, rendering thousands of dollars in private investment useless overnight.

- **Waste of Public Revenue and Police Resources:** Forcing vetted citizens to surrender private property at a net loss creates significant resentment toward regulatory authorities. Furthermore, managing the surrender, valuation, storage, and destruction process places an enormous administrative burden on Tasmania Police, drawing critical personnel away from frontline duties.

These public funds and police resources would be far better directed toward frontline policing, mental health interventions, and modernising firearms registry software.

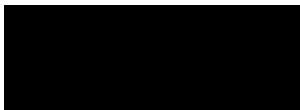
Conclusion

I urge the Department and the Minister to remove the provisions excluding straight-pull and button/lever-release firearms from Category A and B licenses (Sections 14 and 15) and halting their reclassification into Category C (Section 16).

The government should focus its efforts strictly on intelligence sharing, modernising background checks, and registry database integration, rather than imposing arbitrary hardware restrictions and financial penalties on Tasmania's most heavily vetted citizens.

Thank you for considering this submission.

Sincerely,



Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 26 July 2026 7:54 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Inquiry to whom it may concern.

[REDACTED]
Hello,

Im writing this to have my say on the Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026.

In short,

Tasmania should be the first Australian state to introduce suppressors. Everywhere else in the world has them and uses them as a safety device. If approved, people should register each suppressor. But dont make this a long drawn out process, walk into a gun shop and buy a suppressor, just like ammunition.

We should not have Caps on how many firearms we can own, you cant say you we will cap licenced firearm owners to 5 guns. Farmers and recreational hunters always need more than 5. You can shoot deer wallaby possum ducks and so on with a 300 magnum. Each species need different calibres.

With H licenses, people should be allowed to use pistols on there property's. This be for target practice, the humane put down of sick or injured animals. Of course you dont want every man and his dog to have a pistol, keep them controlled, but let people use them, not just at ranges.

Permits to acquire a firearm should not take a month or a few weeks. People need to be able to buy a gun, apply online or something and take it home on that day. There has to be something we can as a state can work out so people can do that.

I can keep going all day, but ill say this,

Criminals have suppressors, rifles, semi autos, pistols and so on. All unregistered, stolen, illegally made or built. People who pay the fee to do the courses, legally own a firearm should not be subject to the actions of criminals. Criminals are the underlying problem, not some [REDACTED], law abiding farmer in the [REDACTED].

[REDACTED]
Thanks [REDACTED]

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 22 July 2026 4:56 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Firearms amendment

[REDACTED]
To whom it may concern

I am writing as a concerned Tasmanian to ask that you do not support changes to the firearms laws that unfairly impact law-abiding firearms owners, hunters, farmers, shooting clubs and outdoor recreation supporters.

Licensed firearm owners in Tasmania are already subject to strict rules, checks and responsibilities. The focus of any changes in law should be on illegal firearms and criminal organisation misusing firearms and proper enforcement of existing laws and not further restrictions on lawful firearm owners doing the right thing.

Shooting and hunting in Tasmania is an important part of life for many Tasmanians. Shooting clubs provide safe and supervised environments for people, supporting families and contributes to regional communities.

Firearms are also practical tools for farmers, landholders and hunters who rely on them for pest control and to provide food for the table.

I think any changes to firearm should be based on evidence on proper consultation and genuine public safety outcomes.

The licensed firearm owners of Tasmania are the most affected by these laws and deserve to be heard before decisions are made on these important laws.

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

Regard

[REDACTED]

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 21 July 2026 6:22 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Gun Laws

[REDACTED]

I wish to register my disappointment in the proposed gun law changes. As a gun owner and recreational hunter for 50 years, never with any problems i am disgusted with the government trying to change the laws.

I remember in 1996 after Port Arthur, we were told to register as gun owners, while being assured there would be no further regulation.

That turned out to be a joke didn't it. No one minded being registered as it was the right thing to do. I object to being classed in with people who are criminals and nut jobs that do the wrong thing. These people deserve to have the book thrown at them BUT surely the things they do are a law and order problem, not, a gun owner problem.

As a 4th generation hunter, who hunts on a property with enormous numbers of wildlife on it, of different types, i need a variety of firearms as outlined in code for hunting.

I am a law abiding citizen without even a parking ticket in the last 25 years. I am so disappointed in even more regulation.

Regards, [REDACTED]

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 13 July 2026 8:47 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Firearms amendment bill 2026 consultation submission.

[REDACTED]

Hi Dept of Police Fire and Emergency Management,

Thank you for providing me with a chance to comment on the proposed amendments to the Firearms legislation. I can confirm I agree with most of the proposed changes other than the following:

In reference to the **Consultation information sheet:**

Amendment 1. Changing classification of some firearm types. The amendments are in response to the illegal use of legally obtained firearms in a recent incident in Qld. By changing some rifle types to class C in Tasmania, I do not believe addresses the real problem of criminals harming others because of their own extremist and racist views. Stopping extremists and people with conflicting ideology from entering the Country in the first place would be more effective. I believe Amendment 2. partially addresses the underlying safety problem - that Australian Citizenship is required to obtain a firearm license.

Amendment 11. The question about changing the notification period to 'at least 7 days' does not make sense. Is it 'at least' 7 days or 'within' 7 days Please clarify?? Also does the 7 days include weekend days when there are less administrative staff on duty in our Police stations. Could this be 7 business instead - as a compromise?

Amendment 18. I disagree with reduction of magazine capacity for firearms that are used in Primary Production, biosecurity and pest control, particularly for game hunting of large animals such as deer. As a primary producer, adequate magazine capacity is required for animal welfare reasons. No matter how good a shooter, in some cases animals do not always die immediately from the first shot, and hence the need to fire a second or even third shot to euthanize the animal humanely. E.g. Some years ago, we had to put down a bull and required 3 x 300 magnum cal. bullets to bring him to rest. He was an older bull with a thick skull bone. My magazine capacity was just adequate to do the job quickly, safely and humanely.

I look forward to seeing the results from the consultations.

[REDACTED]

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

To: submissions.strategy.support@dpfem.tas.gov.au
From: [REDACTED]

Summary

This submission supports the general direction of the Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026 that includes:

- The reclassification of self-ejecting straight-pull and button/lever-release centre-fire rifles and shotguns to Category C
- The citizenship and residency licensing requirements
- The mandatory minimum sentence for firearm theft and possession of stolen firearms.

But the draft Bill omits a cap on the number of firearms a person may own. This submission argues that a cap should be added to the Bill which is consistent with recent reforms in other Australian jurisdictions and the formal advice of Tasmania's Police Commissioner, Donna Adams, to Police Minister Felix Ellis.

The murder of Constable Keith Smith in June 2025, the Bondi terrorist mass shooting, and the 1996 Port Arthur massacre shows the fatal consequences of firearm proliferation and misuse. There are 157,022 registered firearms in Tasmania held by 36,598 licensed owners, with almost 9000 – about one in four – have six or more firearms eachⁱ.

The Commissioner reaffirmed this position at a budget estimates hearing on 4 June 2026, when she said she had “not shifted” her view. “There are more firearms in the community, there are more opportunities for those firearms to be stolen and fall into the wrong hands, there is more opportunity for those firearms to be used to perpetrate family violence ... The more firearms in the community provides more opportunity for them to be either an enabler of crime or be able to be used as a threat or a weapon against police officersⁱⁱ”.

Why a Cap Should Be Included

1. Theft risk rises with the number of firearms, including among lawful owners

Commissioner Adams's advice identifies theft of legally-held firearms as a direct pathway into criminal handsⁱⁱⁱ. Australia Institute research found at least 3330 firearms were stolen in Tasmania in the past two decades. At least 971 were stolen since 2018^{iv}. The Australian Institute of Criminology has separately found almost one in four firearm thefts were subsequently linked to an act of violence or crime, and that Tasmania has among the highest proportional rates of firearm theft nationally^v. A cap would directly reduce the number of firearms available to be stolen which theft-penalty increases alone do not address.

2. Firearms increase family violence risk

Tasmania Police data shows firearm-related family violence rose from 69 in 2021–22 to 140 in 2024–25, a 103% increase over four years. Eighty-three such incidents were in the first nine months of 2025–26^{vi}. This trend directly supports Commissioner Adams's warning that firearm proliferation increases "opportunity for them ... to be used to perpetrate family violence"^{vii}. A 2019 Tasmanian parliamentary inquiry heard evidence that the known presence of a firearm in a household is used by perpetrators to intimidate partners and children, and that firearms were involved in more than 11% of family-violence-related deaths reviewed nationally^{viii}.

3. Tasmania already has an unusually high concentration of firearms per capita

The 2019 Tasmanian parliamentary inquiry found the state has the highest rate of firearm ownership of any Australian jurisdiction, at 16.41 registered firearms per 100 people^{ix}. Combined with Commissioner Adams's figure that almost 9000 Tasmanian licence holders — about a quarter of all owners — hold six or more firearms each, this indicates significant, unregulated concentration of firearms in relatively few hands, which a cap would address^x.

4. Tasmania is an outlier in its response to the Bondi attack

The New South Wales Parliament passed the *Terrorism and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2025* in response to the December 2025 Bondi mass shooting. The legislation imposes a cap of four firearms for standard recreational licensees and up to 10 for primary

producers, pest controllers and sports shooters, alongside a buyback for holders currently above the cap^{xi}. Western Australia already imposes a five-firearm cap for hunters and a 10-firearm cap for primary producers and sports shooters^{xii}. National Cabinet, meeting after the Bondi attack, endorsed a proposal that encouraged all states to consider caps on personal firearm ownership as part of a national response^{xiii}.

5. A cap is consistent with the founding logic of Australia's national firearms framework

The 1996 National Firearms Agreement, adopted after the Port Arthur massacre, was based on the principle that a “genuine reason” and “genuine need” must justify each firearm held, explicitly excluding personal protection as an acceptable reason^{xiv}. A numerical cap, with defined exemptions for primary producers and professional shooters as adopted in NSW and WA, is a natural extension of this “genuine need” principle applied to aggregate holdings rather than to individual firearm categories alone.

Response to the Government’s Objection

Minister Ellis has argued that a cap would unfairly “penalise” law-abiding farmers, hunters and sporting shooters, and that the relevant issue is “the hands [the firearms] are in,” not the number owned^{xv}. NSW and WA have implemented caps with higher thresholds and exemptions for primary producers, pest controllers and sports shooters to accommodate their occupational needs while still containing the number of firearms^{xvi}. This model demonstrates that a cap and legitimate occupational or sporting use are not mutually exclusive, and that Commissioner Adams’s advice can be implemented without penalising genuine primary producers.

Recommendation

The Bill should be amended to include a firearm ownership cap of five firearms per person for Tasmanian licence holders, modelled on the NSW and WA frameworks. The cap would be a base limit for recreational/standard licensees with a higher limit and defined exemption process for primary producers, pest controllers and sports shooters. There should be a buy-back scheme consistent with the compensation approach proposed in the Bill. This would align the Bill with the explicit, repeated advice of Tasmania's Police Commissioner, address the documented rise in firearm-related family violence, reduce the pool of firearms available for theft, and bring Tasmania into step with the national policy response to the Bondi attack.

Endnotes

- ⁱ ABC News, 15 March 2026](<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2026-03-15/tas-chief-of-police-on-firearms-ownership-limits/106456894>)
- ⁱⁱ Pulse Tasmania, 4 June 2026](<https://pulsetasmania.com.au/news/tasmanian-police-commissioner-holds-firm-on-firearm-cap>)
- ⁱⁱⁱ ABC News, 15 March 2026](<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2026-03-15/tas-chief-of-police-on-firearms-ownership-limits/106456894>)
- ^{iv} The Australia Institute, Firearm theft in Australia, 2025](<https://australiainstitute.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/P1893-Firearm-theft-in-Australia-Web.pdf>)
- ^v Australian Institute of Criminology, Firearms theft in Australia: a six-month exploratory analysis](<https://www.aic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-05/tandi230.pdf>)
- ^{vi} Pulse Tasmania, 6 June 2026](<https://pulsetasmania.com.au/news/use-of-firearms-in-tasmanian-family-violence-cases-jumps-103-over-four-years>)
- ^{vii} Pulse Tasmania, 4 June 2026](<https://pulsetasmania.com.au/news/tasmanian-police-commissioner-holds-firm-on-firearm-cap>)
- ^{viii} Legislative Council Select Committee, Firearms Law Reforms, Tasmania, 2019. <https://www8.austlii.edu.au/au/other/tas/TasHASElCPubInq/2019/1.pdf>.
- ^{ix} Legislative Council Select Committee, Firearms Law Reforms, Tasmania, 2019](<https://www8.austlii.edu.au/au/other/tas/TasHASElCPubInq/2019/1.pdf>)
- ^x ABC News, 15 March 2026](<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2026-03-15/tas-chief-of-police-on-firearms-ownership-limits/106456894>)
- ^{xi} (<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/nsws-gun-laws-are-being-debated-what-do-they-currently-proscribe/uxapbn69l>). and NSW Government, *Next Phase of Firearms Reforms Take Effect* 1 July 2026 <https://www.nsw.gov.au/ministerial-releases/next-phase-of-firearms-reforms-take-effect>
- ^{xii} ABC News, 18 December 2025, www.abc.net.au/news/2025-12-18/reaction-mixed-to-gun-reform-proposal-after-bondi-beach-shooting/106148350
- ^{xiii} ABC News, 15 March 2026](<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2026-03-15/tas-chief-of-police-on-firearms-ownership-limits/106456894>)
- ^{xiv} The National Firearms Agreement 1996, Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission www.acic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2022-03/1996%20National%20Firearms%20Agreement.pdf; and Parliamentary Education Office, National Firearms Agreement (<https://peo.gov.au/understand-our-parliament/history-of-parliament/history-milestones/australian-parliament-history-timeline/events/national-firearms-agreement>)

^{xv} Pulse Tasmania, 4 June 2026, <https://pulsetasmania.com.au/news/tasmanian-police-commissioner-holds-firm-on-firearm-cap>

^{xvi} Kenny Spring, NSW Firearms Law Reforms 2025, <https://www.kennyspring.com.au/publications/314/nsw-firearms-law-reforms-2025-what-licence-holders-need-to-know> ; ABC News, 18 December 2025, <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-12-18/reaction-mixed-to-gun-reform-proposal-after-bondi-beach-shooting/106148350>

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 6 August 2026 5:44 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Submission: Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026

Privacy Request

This submission is provided on the understanding that my personal information, including my name, address, email address, and any other identifying details, will remain confidential. I do not consent to the publication or disclosure of my personal information and request that any publicly released version of this submission be fully de-identified.

Submission:

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

There is no evidence to suggest that this proposed change is necessary or that it would have any measurable impact on community safety. It is also inconsistent with the approach taken by the majority of Australian states and territories, which have chosen not to reclassify these types of firearms.

This proposal also disproportionately affects disabled and injured shooters. Firearms of this type can offer reduced felt recoil and improved ergonomics, allowing some people with physical limitations to participate in shooting disciplines that would otherwise be inaccessible. Restricting access to these firearms would reduce participation opportunities for these licence holders without any demonstrated public safety benefit.

These proposed changes should be removed from the legislation.

Magazine capacity changes

There is no evidence to suggest that changes to magazine capacity limits are required or that the current limits are contributing to any “public safety” issues.

Without clear evidence demonstrating a need for these amendments, the proposed changes are unjustified and should be removed.

Change of address notification and change of firearm storage location notification (more than 24 hours)

The proposed requirement to notify a change of address within 24 hours is impractical and unnecessarily restrictive. It appears to serve little purpose other than increasing the likelihood of otherwise compliant licence holders inadvertently committing an offence.

The proposal also fails to account for emergency situations. For example, if a licence holder is forced to leave their home due to a bushfire, flood, or other emergency, it is unreasonable to expect them to notify Tasmania Police of a change of address within 24 hours while dealing with the immediate consequences of such an event.

Section 46 amendment (bb) states:

"if the firearm is to be stored at an address other than the residential address of the licensee for more than 24 hours, the licensee must notify the Commissioner in an approved form of the change in location—

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

(ii) if the change occurs without 24 hours' notice, as soon as practicable, and **no later than 24 hours after that change occurs.**"

This provision appears to contradict existing arrangements that allow firearms to be permanently stored at an approved storage location that is not the licence holder's residential address. Clarification is required to explain how these provisions interact and whether permanent off-site storage remains lawful without repeated notification requirements.

The proposed notification requirements also fail to consider the practical realities faced by many licence holders. Not all areas of Tasmania have reliable mobile phone or internet coverage, and not all licence holders have the computer literacy required to comply with electronic notification systems. Legislation should remain accessible and practical for all lawful firearms owners, regardless of their age, location, or technological capability.

In addition:

The *Consultation Information Sheet 3* is inconsistent with the draft legislation. The draft legislation states:

"if the change of address occurs without 24 hours' notice, as soon as practicable, and no later than 24 hours after that change occurs."

It is disappointing that consultation material contains inconsistencies with the draft legislation, as this has the potential to mislead stakeholders and undermine confidence in the consultation process.

Changes relating to the lending of firearms

The proposed amendments require further clarification regarding their application to firearms dealers and licensed businesses. For example, it is unclear how these provisions would apply when a firearm is via a firearms dealer is sent to a gunsmith or manufacturer for repair or warranty work.

National Firearms Registry and reliance on online systems

The proposed National Firearms Registry and the increasing reliance on online portals for licence administration raise significant concerns regarding cybersecurity, privacy, and system resilience.

A centralised database containing detailed information about firearms, licence holders, residential addresses, and storage locations would become a high-value target for cybercriminals. Recent data breaches involving both government agencies and large private organisations demonstrate that no computer system can be considered immune from compromise. The consequences of unauthorised access to firearms ownership information could be severe, including increased risks to the personal safety and privacy of lawful licence holders.

The proposed reforms also appear to assume that all licence holders have reliable internet access and sufficient digital literacy to be able undertake the online processes. This assumption does not reflect the reality for many Tasmanians, particularly those living in rural and remote areas or older members of the community.

Any implementation of a National Firearms Registry should be supported by a comprehensive, independently assessed cybersecurity framework before personal information is collected or transferred. The Government should clearly demonstrate how sensitive information will be protected, what security standards will apply, how data breaches will be managed, and why a centralised registry is necessary when existing state and territory firearms registries already perform this function.

Until these concerns are adequately addressed, the proposed expansion of centralised firearms data collection and increased reliance on online administration should not proceed.

regards,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the author.