

Submissions.Strategy.Support

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

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

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

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

I do, however, have two questions:

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

I look forward to your response.

Kind regards,
[REDACTED]

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2026 5:24 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Firearms changes

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Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing regarding the proposed changes to Australia's firearms laws. As a law-abiding firearms owner, I have serious concerns about these proposed reforms. I believe they unfairly target responsible firearms owners, who are not the source of the problem.

Firearms have been a normal part of my life since childhood. They were part of my family's way of life. My grandfather was both an antique dealer and a gunsmith, and some of my fondest memories are of spending weekends at the shooting range with him, shooting clay targets alongside doctors, lawyers, nurses, farmers, tradespeople, and families who taught their children to respect firearms from a young age.

Growing up around firearms meant learning responsibility, discipline, and safety. I watched my grandfather restore and repair firearms, spent countless weekends at the range, and joined family hunting trips that helped put food on our table. For me, this wasn't unusual—it was simply everyday life.

In Tasmania, obtaining a firearms licence is already a rigorous process. Applicants must be deemed fit and proper persons, undergo police background checks, complete accredited firearms safety training, and comply with strict storage and licensing requirements. These measures already ensure that lawful firearms owners are responsible members of the community.

The proposed changes will not prevent criminals from illegally obtaining or using firearms. Criminals, by definition, do not follow firearms laws. Instead, these changes will place further restrictions on people who have done everything required of them under the law.

I am also concerned about the financial cost of another firearms buyback scheme. Such a program would cost Australian taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars while doing little to address the criminal misuse of illegally obtained firearms.

Lawful firearms owners are not the people committing armed robberies or violent crimes. They are hardworking Australians who enjoy target shooting, hunting, collecting, or rely on firearms for farming and pest control. For many of us, shooting is more than a hobby—it's a tradition, a sport, a way of providing food for our families, and an important part of our lifestyle.

The proposal to reclassify additional firearms into higher licence categories will only make it more difficult for responsible people to continue participating in activities they have lawfully enjoyed for many years. I ask: do you genuinely believe these changes will stop organised criminals or those who obtain firearms illegally?

To put this into perspective, if someone drives while intoxicated and causes a fatal accident, we do not punish every licensed driver or make it significantly harder for law-abiding Australians to own a car. We hold the individual offender accountable. Why should responsible firearms owners be treated differently because of the actions of criminals?

There is also a widespread misconception that firearms owners are reckless or uneducated. In my experience, the opposite is true. The overwhelming majority of firearms owners are responsible, safety-conscious, and law-abiding people. Unfortunately, a small minority receives extensive media attention, creating an unfair stereotype that does not reflect the broader firearms community.

The tragic incidents that have prompted these proposed reforms should never have happened. However, where individuals were already known to authorities, had been radicalised, or were on police watch lists, those failures point to shortcomings in intelligence, law enforcement, or intervention—not failures by responsible firearms owners who complied with every legal requirement placed upon them.

In conclusion, I ask you to carefully consider who these proposed laws are actually affecting. They will not stop criminals from breaking the law. Instead, they will impose further restrictions on responsible Australians who already comply with strict licensing requirements.

As someone who has grown up around firearms, I know firsthand the importance of education, safety, and responsibility. I ask that the Government focus on stronger action against illegal firearms trafficking, organised crime, and individuals who pose genuine risks, rather than introducing measures that further burden law-abiding citizens.

I respectfully ask that you reconsider these proposed changes and engage with responsible firearms owners, sporting shooters, farmers, and industry experts before implementing reforms that will have little impact on crime while significantly affecting those who already follow the law.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my views.

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2026 8:28 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: CONSULTATION ON THE FIREARMS AMENDMENT (MISCELLANEOUS) BILL 2026 - Submission

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To Whom it may concern

I am writing to formally submit my concerns regarding the proposed firearms reforms announced by the Tasmanian Government. I do so as a long-standing, law-abiding firearms owner who has complied with every requirement placed upon me and who has never posed any risk to "community safety".

My concern is not with genuine safety measures, but with reforms that appear to target compliant firearm owners rather than addressing criminal misuse. The proposals, as currently framed, **do not** strike the balance claimed. Instead, they impose additional burdens on the most regulated and responsible group in the country while offering no measurable improvement to public safety.

Below I outline my key points for your consideration.

1. Penalties for Theft and Possession of Stolen Firearms

Existing legislation already provides significant penalties. The issue is not the absence of laws but the enforcement of them. Increasing penalties without addressing enforcement gaps is symbolic rather than effective.

2. Intelligence Sharing and Background Checks

Current legislation already enables information sharing between agencies. If deficiencies exist, they should be identified and addressed directly. Without evidence of systemic failure, additional layers of bureaucracy do not improve safety outcomes.

3. National Firearms Register

Each state already maintains a registry. A national register adds administrative cost without addressing criminal misuse, as criminally held firearms are not registered and will not be added to any national system. Centralisation also increases pressure for uniform restrictions, which risks further unjustified limitations on compliant owners.

4. Citizenship Requirements

This proposal is broadly reasonable and largely supported within the firearms community. It is one of the few elements of the reform package that aligns with practical licensing considerations.

5. Reclassification of Straight-Pull and Lever-Release Firearms

This proposal is deeply concerning. I own firearms affected by this change and have used them safely and responsibly for many years. Reclassification based solely on mechanical similarity to prohibited categories does not reflect actual misuse or risk.

Furthermore, the practical reality in Tasmania is that recreational shooters — not farmers themselves — perform most crop protection work. Restricting these firearms to Category C will reduce the effectiveness of pest management and increase costs for primary producers.

A more balanced approach would be:

- Reclassify these firearms to Category C **only**; and
- Allow recreational shooters to access Category C under crop protection permits on properties where they provide a service.

This maintains safety oversight while preserving the practical ability to perform essential agricultural work.

6. Compensation and “Buyback”

The term “buyback” is misleading and rather insulting. The government did not purchase these firearms originally, and compulsory surrender under compensation is not voluntary. The financial burden on taxpayers is significant, and the policy does not address criminal misuse.

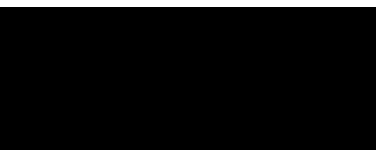
The NSW limit on firearm numbers — cited by some as a model — would not have prevented the tragic incident that prompted these reforms. The individual involved used the same number of firearms permitted under NSW law. This demonstrates that restricting compliant owners does not prevent acts of terrorism or hate-motivated violence.

Conclusion

Tasmania has historically taken a measured and evidence-based approach to firearms regulation. These reforms depart from that tradition. They impose restrictions on people who are not the source of the problem, while offering no clear pathway to improved community safety.

I respectfully request that the government reconsider the reclassification proposal and engage directly with firearms owners, dealers, and rural stakeholders to develop practical, evidence-based alternatives.

Yours sincerely

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

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, August 7, 2026 9:46 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Amenments

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Dear sir or madam

I am an older shooter and the proposed amendments would disadvantage me greatly
Because I am unable to play most
sports any more. Shooting is giving me a chance to go out with my mates and enjoy my later years .
Myself and others of my age are shooters because it's something you can compete in on a more level
field. I and my fellow shooting sportsmen and women follow the laws and regulations and safety with
regards to firearms so why should we be penalised. I have nothing against any amendments to make
things harder on criminals because they are the problem.
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Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2026 11:46 AM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: New gun laws help terrorists not Australians

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Please let my voice about firearms legislation and regulations be noted.

If the legislators and bureaucratic parasites were at all interested in serving the public and had any concern for public safety, they should direct their efforts towards:

- Stronger penalties for stealing firearms
 - Stronger penalties and mandatory minimums for possessing stolen firearms
 - Laws and searches that target criminals and terrorists, not legal firearms owners
- Remove laws restricting legal firearms owners

I oppose all points listed below and would like legislators and regulators to act accordingly.

- 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

Regards,

[REDACTED]

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15 July 2026

The Minister
Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management

By email: submissions.strategy.support@DPFEM.tas.gov.au

Dear Minister,

Proposed Amendments to the Firearms Act 1996 and the Sentencing Act 1997

I refer to your letter dated 3 July 2026 provided to me and others inviting submissions in relation to the draft legislation proposed to amend the Firearms Act 1996 ("the Act") and the Sentencing Act 1997.

I submit firstly that the drafting in the broad seems to reflect the announced policy and to integrate sufficiently with the Act as it stands presently. I add that the policy changes are in my view in the main but subject to the matters raised below commendable. They stand in marked contrast to the changes announced by the ALP/Green Alliance, which are to be condemned and fought to the death. I intend to make further submissions about the ALP/Green Alliance changes when their detail is known.

I submit secondly that the proposed amendments to section 46 do not seem to have been properly considered in a practical context and on any reasonable view go too far, in that the amendments would require a firearms owner:

- (a) who changes residential address to give some notice to the Commissioner presumably in writing within an impossibly short 24 hours-the drafting mandates notice in "an approved form" but there is no indication of what that will involve. It would be impossible in writing within the required timeframe by any means other than hand delivery or some form of electronic communication presumably by email. Not every firearm owner has access to email and at the stressful time of moving house attending to this kind of thing will be the last thing on the firearm owner's mind. In my submission the timeframe should be at least 7 days-that timeframe is set on multiple occasions in relation to similar issues elsewhere in the Act as it stands presently; and
- (b) who has more than one approved storage location, including many primary producers, to give some notice to the Commissioner within an impossibly short 24 hours every time a firearm is moved between storage locations, unless the move is to a storage location at the firearm owner's residential address. In my submission this is patently too onerous and, I am bound to say, just pointless bureaucracy which will unjustifiably interfere with the ordinary course of most primary production and other businesses. Presumably the intention is to enable the Commissioner to track firearms, but if that is the intention:
 - a. the requirement should be limited to storage locations other than another approved storage location of the firearm owner; and

- b. the requirement should exclude removal of the firearm from an approved storage location of the firearm owner to a licensed firearms dealer-firearm owners in general and especially primary producers as a matter of routine have to take their firearms to a licensed firearm dealer for maintenance or repair; and
- c. the temporal constraint needs to be extended beyond 24 hours to something reasonable, such as 7 days.

I submit thirdly that the *prima facie* mandatory three-month prison sentence for firearm theft is woefully inadequate. I retired in 2018 after more than 35 years in legal practice the early part of which involved representation of criminals mainly in lower court proceedings but occasionally in the Supreme Court. As a general proposition it is true to say that they do not like prison but criminals engaged in firearm theft in general are not petty thieves engaged in shoplifting or some other antisocial act involving only minor dishonesty; in the main they are home invaders bent on pursuing for commercial gain the lucrative trade in the sale of firearms to other professional criminals including motorcycle gang members and drug dealers. In my submission the *prima facie* mandatory sentence should be 3 years not 3 months.

I submit fourthly that the amending legislation does not deal with the following excruciating anomalies affecting the Act as it presently stands:

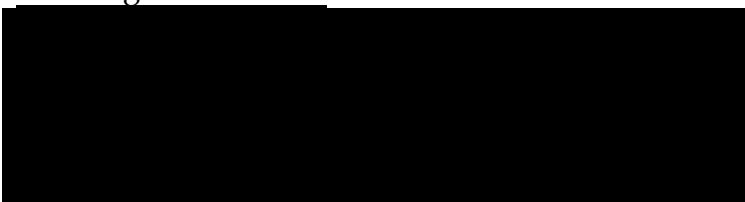
- (a) so far as is presently relevant, category C firearms are available only to a primary producer who has satisfied the Commissioner that the primary producer has a need for them, **and** who has successfully completed an approved-by-the Commissioner TAFE course at the conclusion of which the primary producer is certified by TAFE as having demonstrated safe use of them. The primary producer is only then category C licensed by the Commissioner and permitted to acquire one semiautomatic rimfire rifle and either a pump action or semiautomatic shotgun the use of which is presently restricted strictly to primary production and, on one view of the ambiguous conditions imposed by the Commissioner on the new licence, on only one property owned by the firearms owner-in other words and to be clear, on one view of the ambiguous licence conditions a fully category C licensed primary producer cannot assist another primary producer on the other's property for example by deploying a semiautomatic shotgun to manage and control under permit the predations of white cockatoos which, of course, do not recognize property boundaries. This, it is submitted, is just plain stupid and, I hesitate to add and do so only from observation rather than participation, is a restriction (if it exists) generally observed in Tasmania in the breach, that is to say, as a matter of routine primary producers help each other out with the management and control of pest species usually under permit. The aforementioned white cockatoos are a good example. In my submission this ought to be permitted as a matter of law, and the legislation amended to so permit it. But I would go further.
- (b) The requirement to use a category C firearm only for primary production results in its owner having to obtain and use another firearm of the same gauge or calibre for any other lawful purpose including for recreational hunting on the firearm owner's own farm and elsewhere. For example, a firearm owner who keeps and deploys a

category C shotgun for pest species control, such as white cockatoos, cannot use that shotgun to take wild duck during the duck season on the farmer's own farm (or elsewhere). In other words and to be clear, this means that if wild duck are present and the farmer has a recreational hunting license, but not an NRE permit, to take them, the farmer's category C shotgun cannot be deployed and the farmer has to fetch and deploy another shotgun (generally of the same gauge) for that purpose **both on the farmer's own land and on any other land**. The ALP/Green Alliance is currently threatening the lives, lifestyles and businesses of all firearm owners including primary producers by the infliction of ludicrously low "caps" on total firearm numbers; if the anomaly now being discussed is removed and a primary producer is entitled to deploy the primary producer's category C firearms **for any lawful purpose for which its owner is licensed** the primary producer could then reduce, and probably significantly reduce, the total number of firearms held by that primary producer. Further, the primary producer's category C firearms could be stored at the primary producer's residence rather than on the farm.

- (c) The worst of the Howard-era inflicted 1996 "reforms", namely the blanket 250 m rule which in summary proscribes the deployment of a firearm within 250 m of a residence without the consent of the occupant, gives an effective power of veto to any such occupant who is an enemy of firearm ownership, primary industry, or any other activity requiring or involving the use of a firearm. Usually the veto is deployed dog-in-the-manger by a member of the Green left. This was a monstrous infraction of the rights of primary producers and other property owners and, in my submission, ought to have been restricted in scope and in operation to cities and towns. It had no place, and still has no place, in any rural or semi-rural area. In my further submission it ought never to have applied to a category A firearm which is an air rifle, a 22 LR rimfire rifle, or a 410 calibre (36 gauge) shotgun.
- (d) Most importantly in relation to all of these matters, the 250 m rule **and** the several firearm usage proscriptions imposed by all firearms licences also purportedly apply if read literally even to the deployment of the firearm in lawful self-defence in accordance with the provisions therefor set out in the Criminal Code. These Act provisions if read literally thus expose an innocent homeowner who, faced with crowbar or machete wielding home invaders, deploys to good permanently neutralising effect one of the firearm owner's suitable registered firearms, to criminal prosecution in the Supreme Court for so doing and, I would add, to confiscation of the firearm owner's firearms at least for the duration of the court proceedings. This position, in my submission, is a monumental outrage the present existence of which must lead any prudent firearm owner to consider abandoning this country. I add my opinion in summary that the 250 m rule, and the said usage proscriptions, are to be read down so as to not apply when the Criminal Code self-defence provisions apply; the right to life, physical integrity and to keep and maintain one's home against criminal physical molestation of the very worst kind must prevail. But no homeowner should be put in the position of having to argue this question in court. I note that:

- a. on two occasions very recently in Sydney in New South Wales home invading thugs broke into the residences of wholly innocent homeowners and with a machete chopped off a hand of one of the residents¹;
- b. recently in Queensland two thugs invaded a home and knifed to death the wholly innocent female, and severely wounded her wholly innocent husband;
- c. very recently in Tasmania crowbar wielding thugs invaded the home of a wholly innocent homeowner at Coles Bay and severely injured the occupant before setting his uninsured house on fire-if the homeowner had managed to deploy one of his firearms he would have avoided injury and the burning of his home, but as the legislation presently stands in so doing he would have exposed himself to both criminal prosecution and the confiscation of his firearms as discussed above; and
- d. recently in country New South Wales a wholly innocent elderly couple were attacked in their own home by knife wielding individual who was either a criminal or a lunatic. Unfortunately the attacker succeeded in severely wounding both of the innocents putting the wife to ground, but the wounded husband managed to obtain, presumably from secure storage, a rifle which he was able to deploy to good effect when the attacker returned to consummate his pleasure. There is no doubt that the deployment of the rifle saved two innocent lives. If these same facts occurred in Tasmania the deployment of the firearm for self-defence may render the homeowner liable to prosecution, and the same position probably pertains in New South Wales. It is to be expected that the discretion to prosecute will be exercised favourably to the homeowner, but manifestly obviously he ought not to be in the position of having to rely on it. If it is not so exercised the likelihood, in my submission, is violent protest that may spark the revolution which the Green left and their fellow travelers have been stoking in this now highly unsafe country for the past many years.
- e. It follows that section 113 of the Act should be amended by the addition of sub-s.(5) in the following terms:
 - (5) *For the avoidance of doubt nothing in this Act renders unlawful or liable to any prosecution the use or deployment by a licenced firearm owner of any lawfully owned registered firearm in, as, or as part of the defence of life or property lawful under and in accordance with any provision of Chapter III of the Criminal Code Act 1924.*

Kind regards



¹ This case and many others gives the lie to the egregiously defamatory allegation levelled against law abiding firearm owners to the effect that that more firearms in the private hands of upright citizens make society less safe; the fact is the only individuals who are less safe are home invading thugs, other criminals and lunatics.

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, August 2, 2026 8:36 AM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Firearms amendment bill

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To whom it may concern.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission in relation to the above amendment bill.

Regarding the proposed bill while some of the changes are sound and make sense others are illogical and impractical.

In particular I'd reference to Point 1 in the proposed amendments which proposes a reclassification of straight pull rifles to Category C firearms. This amendment is punitive and illogical. It will not improve public safety. Australia would be the only country, to the best of my knowledge; that would group straight pull rifles in the same category as semi-automatic shotguns and rimfire rifles! This is a knee-jerk reaction to Bondi.

Secondly, I would reference Point 7. Having to inform Tas. Police every time a firearm owner is going to store their firearm at a location other the residential address of the registered owner for more than 24 hours is ridiculous and completely unworkable! I'm not sure how this will work and I suspect it is going to significantly increase the workload for Tas. Police.....

Thirdly, I'll reference Point 10. 7 days to apply for a firearms licence if you move to Tasmanian. That is just too short a period of time. 3 months is more than adequate and should remain the period of time for Category A and B firearms.

Most of the changes proposed in this proposed bill are sensible and well considered. Especially the absence of imposed firearms ownership caps. A cap on Category A and B firearms will do nothing for public safety and there is no evidence anywhere that suggests it will. Please base any changes on evidence and continue to consult the firearms community. We don't need an approach to firearms ownership as we have seen in Western Australia and New South Wales. This is especially true of the removal in those states of a right to refer to the relevant civil and administrative tribunals regarding firearms matters. We firearms owners are already the most scrutinised demographic, and we generally accept this fact! But we have nothing more to give without our sport and way of life being ruined.

Please also continue to focus on dealing with criminals not law-abiding firearms owners when it comes to amendments to firearms laws.

Thank you again for the opportunity to make this submission.

[REDACTED]



FINAL

7th August 2026

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

By Email to: submissions.strategy.support@DPFEM.tas.gov.au

Consultation on the Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026

Dear Sir or Madam,

I welcome the opportunity to comment on the Draft Bill. I consider that a full and proper public consultation should have occurred before the creation of a Draft Bill.

The Minister (Felix Ellis) has obviously made up his mind. He has said such things as:

“One firearm in the hands of terrorists is more dangerous than 100 firearms in the hands of our farmers,”¹

I disagree with the above statement which supposes various assumptions including about farmers.

It is not just terrorists who kill other people with firearms. What about the murder of Constable Keith Anthony Smith? Was Sushames a terrorist?

I cannot understand how Ellis can make such asinine statements.

In any case I make this relatively short submission in the very unfortunate climate of a biased Minister for Police. Ellis should be moved, he has stated he has no confidence in the advice of his Police Commissioner. It is an untenable position.

I will say however that I have formed the strong view that the Minister's office has actively campaigned to stir up a fever in the rural community over the entitlement of certain of our conservative sectors of the community to own and indeed to brandish guns. A stupid campaign in my view.

¹ Pulse Tasmania Sun March 15, 2026

It is unclear whether we might all have as many guns as we would personally prefer or whether only the law abiding among us might carry an unfettered firearms arsenal.

How would the Minister and indeed more realistically The Police determine who is law abiding and who is not? Minister Ellis statements are rubbish.

I note there are other views in the Parliament over this draft Bill. I hope they might prevail and reform this inadequate Bill.

I have read the Draft Bill and have followed the various media over this issue with interest. I have looked the response in other states. This is not a comprehensive appraisal clause by clause.

I support strongly the creation of the introduction of the National Firearms Register (NFR).

I also support much tighter regulation over guns (firearms) and stronger penalties and a cap on gun ownership.

I am aware that the advice of the Police Commissioner has been ignored. This simple fact is unacceptable to me. The Commissioner is the expert in this area not some Minister who does not have any training in the area of public safety.

I agree with the simple proposition that less guns in the Tasmanian community is inevitably a safer community. It is not the only strategy but it is an important part of such a strategy.

I consider this safer community ambition to be an overriding public interest matter.

It has been reported:

"Tasmania has more than 157,000 registered firearms held by about 36,600 licence holders. Nearly 9,000 of those owners have six or more guns.

*Commissioner Adams noted the total number of firearms in circulation nationally now exceeds pre-1996 levels and said the impact of post-Port Arthur reforms had diminished over time."*²

I strongly question the need of anyone to own 6 or more guns. A much, much higher bar should exist for such a large cache of weapons, were it to continue to be allowed. Tasmania does not need more guns. Yet after Port Arthur that is the reality.

Indeed my strong preference is for a considerably lower amount of guns in the community than the 157,000 registered firearms currently.

Then there are a significant number of unregistered firearms as well, I strongly assert. I am aware that there are many, many unregistered firearms. The penalty of the ownership or possession of an unregistered firearm needs to be massively increased.

Currently:

² • Pulse Tasmania Sun March 15, 2026

*"You may not possess or use a firearm without the appropriate licence. The maximum penalty for doing so is \$15,400 and/or 2 years in prison."*³

And:

*"A person aged between 12 and 18 can apply for a minor's permit if they have the written permission of a parent or guardian. The penalty for a minor who unlawfully possesses a firearm is a maximum of \$770."*⁴

Why does a person at age 12 have either the responsibility or the maturity to handle deadly weapons? I argue they do not. Why is there such a small penalty? Ridiculous.

Loaning or selling firearms should be further restricted. Loaning a firearm should not be possible, it is unacceptable. How is that an enforceable provision?

During and in the lead up to the short consultation period there have been a number of incidents involving firearms and in all cases those incidents lead me or reinforce my position that now is the time to develop and promote a community with less reliance on firearms and that there be less firearms in the community.

One of those incidents was portrayed as 9 firearms allegedly being stolen from an East Coast property. Then it was revealed that 15 firearms were stolen. The crime was violent and the owner, a president of a local gun club clearly had an arsenal of firearms on his property.

It seems even gun owners of licensed firearms are not safe when an arsenal of guns is the prize. He was attacked, his house burnt down and all the firearms stolen. Perhaps he was lucky to survive.

Clearly such large cache of firearms is a public safety concern, even with a responsible owner.

"The most serious of the firearms offences in Tasmania are generally related to the use of a firearm. These offences include:

- *Possessing a loaded firearm in a public place. The maximum penalty is \$15,400 and/or 3 years in prison.*
- *Discharging a firearm in a public place. The maximum penalty is \$7,700 and/or 2 years in prison.*
- *Recklessly discharging a firearm within 250 metres of a dwelling house except on an approved range, or with the consent of the occupier of the dwelling house. The maximum penalty is \$7,700 and/or 2 years in prison."*⁵

These penalties should all be massively increased. It is not the point whether a particular community in general are or are not perceived to be law abiding. That very simply is an irrelevant consideration and the Minister should know that fact.

³ <https://www.gotocourt.com.au/criminal-law/tas/firearms-offences>

⁴ <https://www.gotocourt.com.au/criminal-law/tas/firearms-offences>

⁵ <https://www.gotocourt.com.au/criminal-law/tas/firearms-offences>

Currently:

"How quickly must I report a lost or stolen firearm in Tasmania?"

You must notify the Commissioner of Police within 7 days if your registered firearm or certificate of registration is lost, stolen, or sold in Tasmania. Failing to report within this timeframe carries a maximum penalty of \$7,700. Time is critical in these situations, so you should contact police immediately upon discovering the loss or theft. If you face charges for late reporting, seek urgent legal advice to understand your options."

The 7 day timeframe is ridiculous and it needs to reduce to 24 hours. Within 1 day. Indeed Police need to be advised as soon as possible.

Another incident in rural Tasmania and reported this time on the Tasmania Police website:

Constable Keith Smith, 57, was killed at North Motton, in northwest Tasmania, on June 16 2025 while he and another officer were delivering a court-ordered repossession notice.

Tuesday, 17 June 2025 - 9:26 am.

"Investigations continue today into the tragic shooting death of a Tasmania Police officer in the state's North-West on Monday.

With the permission of the officer's family, Tasmania Police Commissioner Donna Adams has confirmed the officer is Constable Keith Anthony Smith, a 25-year veteran of the police service.

Constable Smith, 57, was shot and killed at a rural property in North Motton on Monday morning as he and a fellow officer attended the premises to serve a court-ordered warrant to repossess the home.

Commissioner Adams said Constable Smith was a dedicated officer over a distinguished career with Tasmania Police, who was highly regarded and admired by his colleagues.

Constable Smith had worked in communities across the North and North-West and, for the past five years, was an officer working at Ulverstone police station.

*"Keith was a respected and committed officer, and his loss will be deeply felt across our policing family and the wider community," Commissioner Adams said."*⁶

Now this event did not get the national attention of Bondi but it must be considered to be relevant. Constable Smith was just doing his job. He was entitled to feel and be safe. He should still be alive.

"His death was the first fatal shooting of an officer in Tasmania in more than a century.

"The beloved cop received several honours, including the Commissioner's Medal in 2011 and the National Police Service Medal in 2016."

⁶ <https://www.police.tas.gov.au/news-events/media-releases/tasmania-police-mourns-fallen-officer/>

"Sushames is also facing 10 gun and drug offences, including possessing an unregistered firearm and a silencer."⁷

This is not the only violent incident, killing a policeman. Across Australia there have been a number in recent years. It is time to take a more precautionary approach.

Less guns in the community and a cap on firearms is a vitally important part of the strategy in my view. I note this killing happened at a rural property on the NW Coast, in the Minister's electorate.

Many years ago I was visiting a property in rural northern Tasmania. The person who was living in the property owned a house about 200 metres from the boundary I think.

The lessees of the next door property were shooting wallaby and whilst I was visiting turned their lights on the next door house and discharged their firearms whilst doing this cowardly terrorising act. It was indeed a harrowing experience for all of us inside. This was a low-grade marginal farm with high wildlife pressure. Law abiding farmers they were not.

The owner of this next door property had complained a number of times about the shooter's behaviour but it was always late at night and the property was a very long way from the police station.

So when Ellis talks about the farming community being law abiding, I think back to this incident and conclude simply that Ellis is simply not keeping the community safe. Yet this is an overriding imperative.

The Tasmania Police have limited resources, one can see that whenever one visits a Police Station across Tasmania, they are Spartan places. These officers have a right to feel safe as well. Less guns in the community would be safer for everyone, including the police.

When the Police Commissioner takes a strong position over firearms the Minister and the Government needs to heed the advice. The Tasmanian Parliament should heed the Police Commissioner's advice. She advised a cap on firearms and less firearms in the community.

I am not going over the whole of this Draft Bill, the public should have been given a far better briefing and a far greater opportunity to comment before the draft bill stage.

The lack of caps on gun ownership and the various weak laws is opposed.

I agree with Labor MP Willy about this matter.

"(Minister Ellis) has since taken to social media to campaign against the idea, posting videos and promoting a petition opposing what he described as Labor's plan to put 'caps on Tasmanians'".

"The answer to getting firearms out of the hands of the crooks is better intelligence sharing and tougher penalties for stealing firearms, not unduly impacting law abiding firearms owners," Ellis wrote below a post advertising the petition.

⁷ <https://www.nine.com.au/australia-news/tas/date-set-for-first-step-in-cop-killers-sentencing-20260320-p5qx2o.html>

“... I reckon there are a few Labor members who would sign it, they’re deeply divided on their leader’s decision.”

“Labor leader Josh Willie accused the government of lacking courage and said Labor would push for mandatory limits with crossbench support.

“The Liberals want unlimited guns in the community. Labor does not support that and Tasmanians don’t support that either,” he said.

“Labor leader Josh Willie said his party would push for firearms caps. Image / Pulse

“We support limits on the number of firearms an individual can own because the first job of any government is to keep the community safe.”⁸

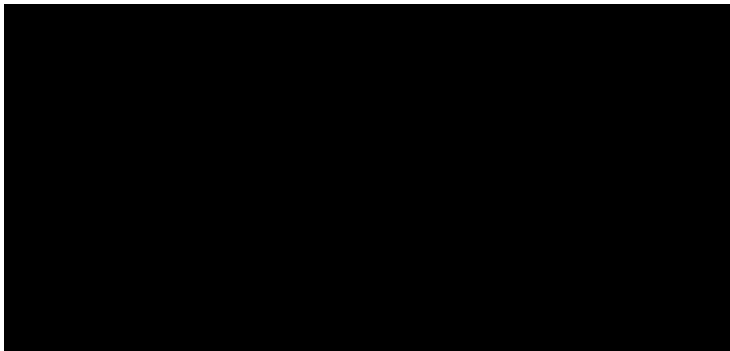
My view after looking at much of Minister Ellis’ comment and behaviour over this matter is that the Liberals seem to have a pathological disposition to unfettered gun ownership in Tasmania.

I am opposed to the Liberal’s laissez faire position, which I regard is poor.

I call upon all other parties in the Tasmanian Parliament to deliver high quality gun laws, ensure a funded buyback and far better laws including a gun cap, as well as delivering on the National Gun Register of course.

I thank you for taking the time to read my submission.

Yours sincerely,



⁸ <https://www.nine.com.au/australia-news/tas/date-set-for-first-step-in-cop-killers-sentencing-20260320-p5qx2o.html>

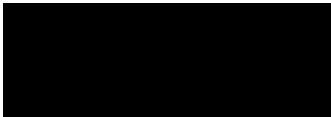
Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 15, 2026 1:23 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Firearms amendment Bill 2026

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

I support a cap on the amount of guns someone can own in Tasmania, similar to NSW which has moved to cap individual firearm ownership to a maximum of four guns for recreational licence holders, and up to 10 guns for primary producers, pest controllers, and sports shooters.

I also support a mandatory prison sentence for criminals who steal firearms. This alone is not enough, as obviously not all criminals get caught.



Tasmania

Sent from my Galaxy

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2026 6:54 AM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Firearms Amendment Bill Submission

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED] learn why this is important at [REDACTED]]

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed limit of four firearms per licensed firearms owner in Tasmania.

As a licensed firearms owner, I believe this proposal does not adequately reflect the legitimate reasons why responsible people own more than four firearms. Firearms are not interchangeable tools. Different calibres and firearm types are suited to different lawful purposes, including hunting various game species, pest management, target shooting, and participation in different sporting disciplines at approved shooting clubs. A blanket numerical limit fails to recognise these practical differences.

Licensed firearms owners in Tasmania are already subject to rigorous background checks, licensing requirements, secure storage obligations, and ongoing compliance with firearms legislation. Those who hold licences have demonstrated their willingness to comply with strict legal responsibilities. Introducing an arbitrary cap appears to target people who are already following the law rather than addressing those who do not.

I am also concerned that this proposal is being justified as a public safety measure without sufficient evidence that limiting the number of firearms owned by licensed individuals will reduce violent crime. Public policy should be based on evidence and should focus on measures that address genuine risk.

Following incidents such as the Bondi Junction attack, it is understandable that governments seek to improve community safety. However, the circumstances of that attack involved complex issues surrounding mental health, threat assessment, and the identification and management of individuals who may pose a risk. In my view, strengthening those systems is likely to have a greater impact on public safety than imposing additional restrictions on licensed firearms owners who have already met stringent legal requirements.

Effective public safety measures should focus on preventing unlawful access to weapons, improving information sharing between relevant agencies where appropriate, supporting mental health services, and ensuring existing firearms laws are effectively enforced. These approaches are more likely to reduce risk than imposing a fixed ownership limit on people who have complied with every legal obligation placed upon them.

I respectfully ask the Tasmanian Government to reconsider this proposal and instead engage with licensed firearms owners, sporting organisations, hunting groups, and other stakeholders to develop evidence-based policies that improve public safety without unnecessarily restricting the rights of responsible, law-abiding citizens.

Thank you for considering my views.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, August 2, 2026 7:38 AM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Firearms buybacks.

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

The on,y people affected will be the lawful owners.

This will cost millions and have absolutely no effect on the criminal element.

A good example of government waste, of a paradiastolic situation that avoids the true cause.



Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2026 4:52 AM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Proposed new firearms legislation

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

Sent from my iPad I 100% disagree with any changes to the firearms legislation except for harsher penalties for criminals and gun theft. There is absolutely no evidence that restricting the amount of guns you can own the type of action they are ie straight pull or button release and having to report to police were I am if I'm away from home hunting for more than 24 hours is going to make the public any safer.please don't forget that 4 other states have already dropped all this nonsense and elections do come back around

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2026 11:10 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Proposed firearm law changes

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

To whom this may concern, I am a law abiding legal firearms licence holder who strongly oppose these new firearms laws that are being proposed to Tasmania.

I am however, in great favour for much stronger laws and punishments for the firearms theft, being in possession of a stolen firearm and for misuse of a firearm. BUT NOT in support of laws that only target legal, safe and responsible firearms owners who have not done anything to deserve such ill treatment and to be spoken about as if we are such criminals.

I strongly oppose the digital implementation of the firearms regulation system due to experience with other aus/tas government organisations having the data hacked, released and misused with breaches by their system and by criminals gaining access to sensitive data like the hacking of mygov, tas education system, medicare, telstra, optus, Vodafone and superannuation firms to state the least. It is extremely dangerous to have this data so readily available for hackers to get their hands on. By doing this you are potentially putting so many risks in place.

The current laws are more than enough and no changes need to be made, only more stronger penalties for the criminals so that way it will work as a much higher and effective deterrent to commit such terrible acts.

We the tasmanian people and legal law abiding firearm owners are sick and tired of being treated like criminals and taking the blame for such horrible acts.

I apologise if this email comes off as "blunt", I am just very concerned and believe that these new proposed changes completely miss the mark.

I urge you to please take an evidence based, common-sense approach and to openly discuss concerns you have with this matter to groups that are extensively experienced with firearms and firearm related activities such as the SSAA, SHO Tasmania, the Shooters Fishers and Farmers Party and the law abiding firearms owners including the firearms/hunting stores and primary producers.

I oppose the reclassification of straight pull and button release as well. As I believe that to be heavily misguided and no need for a change.

I also want to oppose of any firearms caps as that will do nothing to stop criminals what so ever. The law is already in effect that for any firearm permit to acquire, there has to be a genuine reason that has to meet the tas police acceptance and needs to be explained why a current firearm is not suited for that task.

E.g. using a .243 calibre bullet rifle to hunt small deer is humane and is the minimum safe requirement but is far too large and Impractical for hunting/harvesting/controlling rabbits as it would destroy too much if not all of the animal and could be too much of a risk for an inhumane kill let alone a hazard for the backdrop of the target due to bullet velocity/energy so you would need a much

smaller calibre bullet firearm. Let alone some firearms are required and have separate uses for terrain types - open flats and dense bushland would both need different firearms which generally would have to be of a variety of calibre sizes or even same calibre with different rifle requirements but could consist of the same action type/category.

E.g. a .22lr would be ideal for dense bushland with thick brush, exposed rocks etc where the .22lr would drop quick, lose energy and would not travel far and have a lower risk in that terrain. But a .17hmr would shoot further by not dropping as quick and having that straight trajectory would be best suited for open fields or even another .22lr with heavier grain packed bullets with a barrel to suit, zeroed scope for the distance, bipod etc could do the trick but then it becomes impractical for dense bushland hunting and increases the risk of inhumane harvest.

Every firearm has to be justified each time with the permit to acquire. So already you have a CAP like system in place. If you limit the firearms too much, then you will create a much more likelyhood of a potential inhumane kill that you are forcing upon the hunter/controller. NOW Hunters already make sure they are ONLY taking shots that can be done humanely. We the law abiding firearm owners are simply stating that caps for hunting would make it significantly more hazardous out there in the field and would do nothing to stop criminals in the first place as they do not follow laws to begin with and with targeted laws that go after the criminal then they would certainly think again about breaking the law!

That's not to mention that caps would also have a negative effect on the economy with firearm sales, stores that would close down and extensive knowledge of firearms, ballistics, hunting and outdoors culture and experience fall by the way side and also family generation firearms/tools getting passed down would all have a terrible outcome by the buy back confiscation scheme and again does nothing for public safety and stop criminals.

I say, "lets just get behind the current laws as we already do and simply just police the rules further with any theft/misuse and just use common-sense".

Im sure many other people have emailed through statements regarding issues with these new proposed laws so I wont drum on any further as you must already have enough to read through.

It is a great privilege to have a firearms licence in this beautiful country.

I hope you find the time to read this email and understand our view point on this matter.

If you require any more information or have any questions please dont hesitate to email a return.

Yours sincerely,
A law abiding legal firearms owner.

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2026 12:51 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Feedback on Consultation on the Firearms Amendment Bill

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

To whom it may concern,

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

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

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

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026

Prepared in response to the Tasmanian Government
consultation



BACKGROUND OR INTEREST

**Licenced firearm owner,
sporting shooter,
conservation hunter and
community member**

Prepared 4 August 2026

Tas Firearms Submission Builder

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Submission summary

Overall, this submission supports 7 amendments, opposes 8, is unsure about 5, and records no comment on 1.



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.
- The proposal may impose substantial cost on lawful owners without a demonstrated public-safety benefit proportionate to that impact.

Suggested alternatives

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

AMENDMENT 2

Australian citizenship as the default firearms-licensing requirement

OPPOSE

Concerns that have been raised

- Citizenship is not necessarily a measure of a person's character, safety or suitability.
- Permanent residents can have longstanding community, employment and family ties.
- Existing fit-and-proper-person, background-check and genuine-reason tests may already address risk.
- Current licensed firearm owners who are not Australian citizens may lose their firearms licence and may no longer be able to lawfully possess their firearms unless they qualify for an exemption or are protected by a transition arrangement.

Suggested alternatives

- A narrower amendment focused on the identified risk.

Additional comments

Concessions need to be included to allow overseas hunters to be able to hunt in Australia under supervision of suitably licensed firearm owners.

AMENDMENT 3

Restriction on on-lending firearms

SUPPORT

Reasons given in support

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

AMENDMENT 4

Verification of borrower licence and storage

UNSURE

Reasons for remaining unsure

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

AMENDMENT 5

Nationally consistent firearm terminology

NO COMMENT

AMENDMENT 6

Clarification of firearm and firearm-part definitions

SUPPORT

Reasons given in support

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

AMENDMENT 7

Notification of storage away from the owner's residence

OPPOSE

Concerns that have been raised

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

Suggested alternatives

- More targeted enforcement against unlawful possession.

AMENDMENT 8

Notification before changing residential address

OPPOSE

Concerns that have been raised

- The obligation should use a reasonable period and avoid penalising harmless delay.
- Current regulations are more than adequate on notifying police of change of address

AMENDMENT 9

Expanded authority for firearms dealer employees

SUPPORT

Reasons given in support

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

AMENDMENT 10

Seven-day Tasmanian licence application for new interstate residents

OPPOSE

Concerns that have been raised

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

AMENDMENT 11

Advance notice of changes in personal particulars

OPPOSE

Concerns that have been raised

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

AMENDMENT 12

Production of firearms for police inspection

UNSURE

Reasons for remaining unsure

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

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

SUPPORT

Reasons given in support

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

AMENDMENT 15

Summary trial option for unlawful firearms trafficking

UNSURE

Reasons for remaining unsure

- I need more evidence or detail before deciding.

AMENDMENT 16

New summary offence of stealing a firearm or firearm part

SUPPORT

Reasons given in support

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

AMENDMENT 17

Expansion of firearm prohibition orders

UNSURE

Reasons for remaining unsure

- I need more evidence or detail before deciding.

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.

Suggested alternatives

- More targeted enforcement against unlawful possession.

AMENDMENT 19

Updated identification requirements for licence applications

UNSURE

Reasons for remaining unsure

- I need more evidence or detail before deciding.

AMENDMENT 20

Three-month mandatory minimum imprisonment for stolen-firearm offences

SUPPORT

Reasons given in support

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

AMENDMENT 21

Electronic firearms dealer record keeping

OPPOSE

Concerns that have been raised

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

Further suggestions

- Prioritise theft prevention, secure storage and enforcement against unlawful possession before imposing broad reclassifications on lawful owners.
- Publish the evidence relied upon for each firearm reclassification and explain the expected public-safety benefit.
- Separate broadly supported administrative and criminal-law reforms from contentious firearm reclassification proposals.
- Provide clear grandfathering, compensation and transition arrangements for owners of firearms or magazines that are currently lawful.
- Review each affected firearm type individually rather than grouping manually operated actions together without demonstrated evidence of equivalent risk.
- Increase penalties for stealing firearms or assisting firearm theft.
- Increase resources for investigating illegal firearm trafficking and unlawful possession.
- Provide grants or rebates to help lawful owners upgrade firearm storage.

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.

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 15, 2026 2:52 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026

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

I make this submission in my personal capacity as a lawful Tasmanian firearm owner.

I support practical measures that improve public and police safety. However, the introduction of the National Firearms Register must be accompanied by strong and enforceable protections for the privacy and personal safety of lawful firearm owners.

The register will contain an exceptionally sensitive combination of information, potentially including:

- the names and addresses of firearm owners;
- firearms licence and permit details;
- particulars of registered firearms; and
- the locations at which firearms are stored.

In the wrong hands, this information could effectively become a list of potential targets for firearm theft.

This is not a theoretical concern. Western Australia has previously published mapping showing concentrations of firearm ownership, and a later security incident reportedly allowed unauthorised access to firearm storage-location information. I do not suggest that individual owners' names were publicly released. However, these events demonstrate the serious risks created when firearm information is not adequately protected.

I have also received personal accounts concerning known firearm owners in the Burnie area being identified as potential targets. I cannot independently verify or publicly identify the people involved, but the concern is credible and should not be dismissed when designing a register containing ownership and storage information.

The National Firearms Register should therefore be treated as a protected security system, rather than an ordinary administrative database.

The legislation should expressly require:

1. Access to be limited to authorised persons with a genuine operational need.
2. Every access, search, amendment and disclosure to be individually logged and regularly audited.
3. Serious penalties for unauthorised access, use or disclosure by police, public servants, contractors or other users.
4. Mandatory notification to affected firearm owners where their personal or storage information may have been compromised.
5. Protection against the publication of maps, statistics or aggregated information that could identify individual owners, clubs, small communities or likely firearm storage locations.

6. Any public or dealer licence-verification service to return only whether a licence or permit is valid, without disclosing firearms, addresses, storage locations or other personal information.
7. Independent privacy and cybersecurity assessment before the system becomes operational, followed by regular external review.
8. Clear limits on the sharing of information between agencies and jurisdictions, including requirements that information only be used for lawful and defined purposes.

Lawful firearm owners should not lose their entitlement to privacy, personal security or procedural fairness simply because they comply with firearms legislation.

Poorly protected register information could increase the risk of firearm theft and place firearm owners, their families, police and the broader community in danger. That outcome would be contrary to the stated community-safety purpose of the National Firearms Register.

I therefore ask that clear, enforceable and independently audited privacy and security protections be included in the legislation before Tasmania participates in the National Firearms Register.

Confidentiality request

I request that my residential address, telephone number, email address and any other information capable of identifying my firearm holdings or storage arrangements be withheld from publication.

Publication of that information could create a personal and property security risk.

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2026 4:27 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Gun laws

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

My idea is that the number of firearms is irrelevant, because someone who wants to use a gun illegally only needs one gun to do any damage, so the status quo seems a reasonable. Therefore there should be no change. The important part is that guns are registered and properly stored.

[REDACTED]
Sent from my iPhone

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2026 12:32 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Firearms Act 1996 submission

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

Hello,

I am writing to voice my opposition to the amendments to the firearms act 1996. These changes do not target the main issues around illegal firearm use. These laws target law abiding firearms owners and do nothing to deter repeat violent criminals who are regularly let out on bail or sentenced to entirely inappropriate terms of imprisonment.

Police Commissioner Donna Adams suggesting that law abiding owners need to be further limited in the firearms they can keep so they are not stolen is an insanely out of touch response to a problem caused by violent criminals and religious extremists.

These suggested amendments do nothing to target this issue and a 3 month mandatory minimum prison sentence will do nothing to deter repeat, violent criminals who will torture people to steal their firearms.

Much longer sentences for people who break and enter, use violence and steal other people's property is what is needed. Rehabilitating offenders and implementing restorative justice practices have far better success than our current broken system of repeatedly letting violent people out of overcrowded jails after woefully short sentences.

The only change I support is that non-citizens can not own firearms, how that isn't already a law is unbelievable.

Kind Regards [REDACTED].

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 7 August 2026 10:19 AM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Firearms law amendments [confidential response]

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

I support the proposed law changes, in particular without caps on the ownership of firearms by individual persons. The focus on penalties for firearm theft or possession of stolen firearms is appropriate.

The re-classification of certain firearms from Category A or B to Category C does not affect me and is considered a reasonable amendment based on firearm designs that have been adapted or selected to move towards simpler operation.

The proposed cap by the Tasmanian Labor Party opposition is purely an arbitrary limit which will have little or no impact on public safety.

I currently own nine firearms. One is a very old side by side shotgun (c 1895) with Damascus barrels and a patented ejector first produced in 1885. That firearm has only secondary use and is more an item of engineering excellence of its day, but all other guns and rifles have a particular purpose and are all regularly used.

I have five rifles for the following various uses

1. A .22 for small animals (eg rabbits) at short range
2. a .22 magnum for larger animals such as wallabies at short range
3. A .223 for wallabies and kangaroos at longer range
4. A .270 rifle fitted with bi-pod for deer shooting in resting position.
5. A .308 lightweight rifle for hunting deer (and pigs and goats on the mainland) when walking and carrying the rifle over longer distances.

I also have two 12 gauge shotguns of different barrel length, for ducks, wallabies, hares and rabbits (one with different choked barrels) plus the old gun (also 12 gauge) mentioned above and a .410 shotgun for control of vermin close to my house (a garden gun).

If a cap is placed on the number of firearms I own I will divest the lower powered firearms. For example my .22 and my 410 would be the first to go. This would be unnecessary and also meaningless. These firearms are the least likely to be used in any terrorist activity. They are also the best to teach a young person the safety and use of firearms. I have six grandchildren who I hope to introduce to hunting over the next 10 to 15 years. It is not fair on the younger generations to remove this sort of firearm from families.

Further because my wife can sleep through me using the 410 or .22 around the house at night (permitted use due to my residence location and property size), if I had to use a 12G or .223 instead I would be disturbing not only my wife but also distant neighbours. My wife said to me after caps were proposed that she will have to get her licence for those firearms if I cannot own them. She recognises their usefulness. This shows the futility of the caps. More persons will get licences and even more

firearms will be purchased. If my wife got a licence she would need to store in my existing gun safe and to have access she would also need to get a Category B licence.

The limitation on an individual will lead to more individuals having licences and ultimately more firearms. Any further restriction of supply will lead to greater demand for firearms, even by law abiding owners.

Existing laws already allow scrutiny of who is a fit and proper person to own a firearm. Permits to Acquire mean each firearm must be justified on its merits.

It will be very disappointing if law abiding firearms owners are made scapegoats for politicians who want to be seen grandstanding or window dressing.

A secondary consideration:

Without caps a properly licensed owner can take care of the firearms of a deceased person until they can properly be dealt with in an orderly manner. If caps are introduced will there be an automatic exemption (a of the cap) for someone taking control of the firearms and ammunition of a deceased law abiding owner?

A further consideration if caps were to be imposed.

How would values be determined for guns such as an 1895 antique (still operational)?

If a legally owned firearm is required to be surrendered due to legislation changes, will proper compensation be made for not only the firearm but accessories and ammunition?

There must be an element of fairness in compensation. Compensation is not necessary except for re-classified firearms in the proposed legislation.

Just as the restrictions after Port Arthur have driven owners to own more firearms any further restrictions will see more persons want licences and ultimately more firearms owned. The opposite of the claim by some opposition politicians is likely to occur.

Those advocating caps do not in general understand the differences in firearms and their use. The urban majority are often heard to say “why does anyone need more than one gun?” They do not understand why some firearms owners have a greater need than others. I went for a long time with only a .22 and a 12 G shotgun but the more I hunted the more specific became my needs.

Regards,

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of the sender.

Anonymity requested because I have listed my firearms.

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 29 July 2026 5:40 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Feedback on Firearms Amendment, Tasmania 2026

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Feedback comment:

As a Tasmanian resident and tax payer, I would like to make the following points regarding the Tasmanian gun legislation.

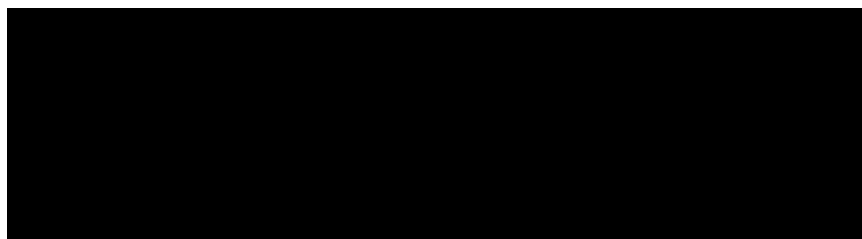
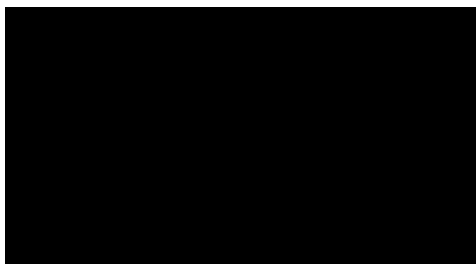
- As Tasmanians are VERY aware, guns can kill and in the hands of the wrong people can and have been used to take lives both accidentally and deliberately. Access to guns needs to be strict and limited and decided on actual need rather than a perceived need or want.
-
- Caps on gun ownership should be based on PROOF of actual need in both domestic and work settings. The armed forces and police are clear examples of when some gun access is appropriate and necessary, but even here, there should always be an evidence based rationale and it should not be taken as a 'given'. In domestic settings, there are few occasions when it would be seen as a necessity (perhaps remote farm locations where a vet or the use of a gun to control pests/vermin might be necessary, but this should be reviewed regularly and never taken as a given **AND** with the **minimum** number of firearms kept).
-
- Many of us remember the tragedy of Port Arthur but that was an event that sparked the questioning of assumptions about gun ownership that led to legislative change. We are now many years on from that and legislation should reflect our current world and its dangers and be reflective of what would be GOOD PRACTICE today and for the next 5/10 years. Regular review is needed to ensure that actual and provable changes of circumstance, require change to the existing legislation.
-
- Gun control needs to be seen as crime/damage prevention now and for the foreseeable future, not something to be put in place after and in response to tragedy.
-
- Gun owners need to take their responsibilities seriously and that includes 'going to trouble' to maintain guns safely and only owning those that are actually, with evidence, deemed to be, required. This should include acceptance of regular checks, and requirements that they justify their ownership.
-
- Owning a lethal weapon is not a right and should only be seen as a specific need for a specific circumstance.

Lastly, although probably not a response to this gathering of feedback, I also believe that those found guilty of breaching gun laws should receive real penalties - be it fines (personal income related, not necessarily a set, and certainly not a personally insignificant, amount), an automatic revoking of an existing licence (interim licences could be granted where need can be demonstrated) and it should be made to be an effort to regain the privilege of ownership.

Kind regards



Casual Relief Teacher



INDIVIDUAL CONSULTATION SUBMISSION

Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026

Prepared in response to the Tasmanian Government consultation



LOCATION

CAMPANIA

BACKGROUND OR INTEREST

Licenced firearm owner

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Submission summary

Overall, this submission supports 12 amendments, opposes 9, is unsure about 0, and records no comment on 0.

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

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

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

Suggested alternatives

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

AMENDMENT 7**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****OPPOSE****Concerns that have been raised**

- Unexpected separation, housing loss, emergencies or settlement changes may make advance notice impossible.
- One notification should update all relevant licence and registration records.

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.

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.

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

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

Suggested alternatives

- More targeted enforcement against unlawful possession.

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

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

Suggested alternatives

- More targeted enforcement against unlawful possession.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Suggested alternatives

- More targeted enforcement against unlawful possession.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Further suggestions

- Increase penalties for stealing firearms or assisting firearm theft.
- Increase resources for investigating illegal firearm trafficking and unlawful possession.
- Focus future reforms on reducing theft, unlawful possession and criminal misuse while minimising unnecessary impacts on people already complying with the law.

Closing comments

- I support amendments that have a demonstrated and proportionate public-safety benefit, but I do not support changes based primarily on optics, political pressure or unsupported assumptions.
- 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.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 3 August 2026 8:38 AM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026.

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

Submission: Opposition to a National Firearms Register

To whom it may concern,

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposal for an Australian National Firearms Register. While I recognise the intent to enhance public safety and improve information sharing among jurisdictions, I respectfully oppose the establishment of a centralised national register. In brief, the proposal risks imposing significant costs and operational complexity without demonstrable, proportionate benefits to community safety, and it introduces material privacy and security concerns that are not adequately mitigated by the envisaged design.

1. Proportionality and evidence of benefit

- Public safety outcomes: Existing state and territory licensing, permitting, and storage regimes already impose rigorous controls. It is not clear that a centralised register would deliver measurable reductions in firearm crime, which is predominantly associated with unregistered or illicit firearms. Absent robust, prospective evaluation metrics, the register risks becoming an expensive duplication with limited marginal gain.
- Problem–solution fit: The principal gaps cited—inter-jurisdictional visibility, timeliness of revocations, and rapid risk-flagging—can be addressed through targeted interoperability and data-sharing standards between existing registries, rather than centralisation.

1. Privacy, data security, and risk concentration

- Sensitive personal data: A national register would consolidate identity details, residential locations, and firearm inventories for hundreds of thousands of licensees. Centralised, high-value datasets increase the incentive and impact of cyber intrusion and misuse. We have already seen this on multiple occasions in 2025 and 2026 involving alleged Russian hackers and numerous other instances of privacy breaches and fraud.
- Data minimisation: Best-practice privacy principles favour collecting only what is necessary, retaining it for as short a period as required, and distributing risk rather than aggregating it. A federated model with event-driven data exchange better aligns with these principles while still enabling timely enforcement action.
- Transparency and redress: Any expanded data regime must include clear limits on access, audit trails available to individuals, and accessible mechanisms to correct errors. Centralisation makes error propagation more likely and redress more complex.

1. Operational feasibility and cost-effectiveness

- Implementation risk: National platforms of this scale routinely face delays, overruns, and integration challenges across disparate legacy systems. During transition, data quality issues (duplication, misallocation, stale records) can undermine frontline confidence and effectiveness.
- Ongoing burden: Licensees, dealers, and enforcement agencies will bear additional compliance steps and system interactions. Without compelling evidence of net safety benefits, these burdens are difficult to justify.
- Opportunity cost: The considerable funding required would likely yield greater safety dividends if directed to targeted policing of illicit trafficking, intelligence-led operations, mental health interventions, and domestic violence risk management—areas empirically linked to harm reduction.

1. Effects on compliant firearm owners and industry

- Disproportionate impact: Law-abiding licensees would experience increased surveillance and administrative load despite not being the primary vector of firearm crime. This risks eroding trust and cooperation that are essential to effective regulation.
 - Safety through partnership: Regulatory frameworks work best when they cultivate voluntary compliance and timely reporting. Policies perceived as overreach can have the opposite effect.
1. Viable alternatives to achieve the stated objectives To address legitimate information-sharing and enforcement needs without the downsides of centralisation, I recommend:
- Federated interoperability: Establish nationally consistent data schemas, unique identifiers, and secure APIs linking existing state and territory registries. Enable real-time or near-real-time event notifications for critical triggers (licence revocations, prohibition orders, interstate moves, high-risk acquisitions).
 - Tiered, role-based access: Limit data exposure to what specific roles require, with immutable audit logs, strict penalties for misuse, and regular independent oversight.
 - Data quality governance: Mandate standardised validation rules, reconciliation processes, and periodic accuracy audits across jurisdictions, with published performance indicators.
 - Targeted enforcement investment: Prioritise resources toward the illicit market, straw purchasing detection, and cross-border trafficking, supported by enhanced forensic tracing and intelligence sharing.
 - Sunset and review mechanisms: If any expansion proceeds, include statutory sunsets, independent evaluations against predefined safety metrics, and a clear pathway to rollback if benefits are not demonstrated.

Conclusion I support evidence-based measures that tangibly improve public safety while respecting privacy, proportionality, and operational practicality. A centralised National Firearms Register does not, in my view, meet that test. A federated, standards-based interoperability approach—paired with focused investment in illicit market disruption and risk-driven policing—offers a more balanced, lower-risk pathway to the same objectives.

Submission Opposing the Reclassification of Straight-Pull/Lever-Action Shotguns and Lever/Button-Release Rifles

I also write to express my opposition to the proposed reclassification of straight-pull and lever-action shotguns, as well as lever/button-release rifles.

As a law-abiding firearms owner, I believe these proposed changes are unlikely to improve public safety while placing unnecessary burdens on responsible licence holders who already comply with stringent licensing, storage, transport, and use requirements.

These firearms are mechanically distinct from self-loading firearms. Straight-pull and lever-action firearms require a separate manual action between each shot, and lever/button-release rifles similarly require a deliberate manual operation before another round can be chambered. Their operation differs significantly from self-loading designs, and any regulatory approach should recognise these mechanical differences.

Current firearms licensing frameworks already provide extensive safeguards, including background checks, ongoing suitability assessments, secure storage requirements, genuine reason provisions, and significant penalties for unlawful possession or misuse. These measures focus on the individual possessing the firearm rather than assuming that a particular manually operated action presents an unacceptable risk.

Reclassification would also have significant consequences for legitimate firearm owners, including primary producers, sporting shooters, recreational hunters, and collectors who have acquired these firearms lawfully and used them responsibly for many years. Many individuals have made substantial financial investments in firearms, accessories, safes, and training based on the existing legal framework. Changing classifications without compelling evidence would impose considerable costs and uncertainty.

Effective firearms policy should be evidence-based. Before introducing additional restrictions, there should be clear, publicly available evidence demonstrating that these specific firearm types present a measurable risk that cannot be addressed through existing legislation or enforcement. Any proposal should be supported by transparent data showing that reclassification would produce a meaningful improvement in community safety.

Resources may be more effectively directed towards addressing illegal firearm trafficking, organised criminal activity, and enforcement against those who deliberately misuse firearms, rather than imposing further restrictions on licensed owners who have consistently complied with the law.

I respectfully request that the proposed reclassification not proceed unless supported by robust evidence demonstrating both the necessity and likely effectiveness of the changes. Any future reforms should be proportionate, evidence-based, and developed in consultation with affected stakeholders, including licensed firearm owners, industry representatives, sporting organisations, primary producers, and law enforcement.

Thank you for considering this submission.



Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 4 August 2026 6:37 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: [REDACTED]

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Hello.I am a responsible fire arms holder and have been shooting and hunting for over 40 Years.I enjoy both sport shooting ,hunting and shooting vermins both during at night time with crop protection permits.I think the punishments for gun thefts and illegal activity using fire arms must be much tougher.I don't think law abiding citizens shouldn't have any restrictions owning fire arms up to 10 weapons .I use different riffles for different hunting activities or sport shooting . I think the plan to create a national fire arms register is great. I suggest to restrict fire arms and to confiscate firearms for people that are suspected of and have been involved in any serious criminal activity ,drugs,family or children abuse or any mental illnesses. Criminals need to be hold accountable in the courts for criminal activities using fire arms or thefts of firearms.Criminals need to feel they can't take the risk of stealing or using a firearm when the punishment will be to hard .Feel free to contact me if needed.

Kind regards [REDACTED]

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 4 August 2026 10:57 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Re: Firearms Messaging July

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To Whom it May Concern:

Please accept the following as my feedback for the Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026.

Often attributed to Winston Churchill, it was actually Rahm Emanuel who said: "Never let a good crisis go to waste". I would bet my farm that these words have been uttered in the halls of Salamanca Place several times over the drafting of this bill. Once more law abiding citizens are having their privileges removed or restricted prompted by the actions of criminals and now craven political opportunism. Why should a law abiding Tasmanian shooter now have to face even further arduous restriction because of the actions of two terrorists in Sydney killing innocents at Bondi Beach? Existing laws, having been correctly and competently followed by authorities, would never have granted the father a firearms license. These people were previously on ASIO watch lists, had subsequently travelled to known terrorist hotspots and then some dope in the NSW government hands them a firearms license, thereby saving them the bother of buying a more expensive illegal gun from a carpark somewhere in Lakemba.

So now naturally a farmer in Longford should now give up a similar firearm? Makes total sense.

It's politicians' logic at best (we must do something, this is something, therefore we must do this) and a pathological distrust of Tasmanian firearm owners at worst. All of these laws being enacted over the country have rightly received much cynicism from the public and have been politically difficult to enact.

Show some courage and common sense and police those who seek to harm the population and not those involved in sporting shooting or farming.

Yours Faithfully,

[REDACTED]

On Fri, 3 Jul 2026 at 14:09, Tasmania Police <internal.comms@comms.dpfem.tas.gov.au> wrote:



The image cannot be displayed. Your computer may not have enough memory to open the image, or the image may have been corrupted. Restart your computer, and then open the file again. If the red x still appears, you may have to delete the image and then insert it again.

Dear Stakeholder,

The Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management is responsible for delivering quality policing and emergency services in Tasmania. An important part of delivering those services is ensuring that Tasmania has contemporary laws designed to keep the community safe.

Consulting with stakeholders and the community is an important part of the legislation development process. Consultation aids in engagement, community awareness, assists in providing critical analysis of relevant issues, and provides an important opportunity for the community to contribute to legislative development. You are receiving this email because you have been identified as a stakeholder who may have an interest in documents published by the Department for consultation.

The Department is seeking feedback on the Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026 (the Bill). The Bill proposes amendments to the *Firearms Act 1996* to prepare the Act for the introduction of the National Firearms Register (NFR) and to make further changes to licensing requirements and firearms categories to improve community safety. The consultation period will be open between 3 July 2026 and 7 August 2026.

The Bill a consultation information sheet and a supporting question and answer document can be found at: <https://www.police.tas.gov.au/consultations/>

To make a submission:

EMAIL to submissions.strategy.support@DPFEM.tas.gov.au or

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

In accordance with the Tasmanian government's public submissions policy, all submissions will be published on the Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management website at <https://www.police.tas.gov.au/consultations/>

Parties making a submission may request that the submission is treated as confidential. Reasons are to accompany such a request. A copy of the public submissions policy is available at <https://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/>

This email was sent by DPFEM, 47 Liverpool Street, Hobart, Tasmania 7000, Australia to

[Unsubscribe](#)



|



Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 19 July 2026 5:49 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Consultation on Firearms Amendment Bill

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Dear Strategy and Support at Tasmanian Police

As a farmer and a firearm owner, while I support many of the changes, I have made the below points against the proposed changes I do not agree with.

Proposed amendments numbers from the information sheet.

1 - I have a shotgun and not a category C license. This something I flatly reject as a rifle owner. I can't afford the time or money to add to me license, unless the C category is given for free as a grandfathering arrangement.

2- I do not agree that you have to be an Australian citizen to have a firearm license. I am a farmer and have many neighbours who are neither Australian or a New Zealander. For farmers to manage pests, it is a combined approach from all neighbours to help manage pests that decimate our food production. Not allowing them to have a firearm license is too simplistic and honestly bad policy. There has to be better policy than this, or there must be an exemption process for all races.

7- If firearms are taken on a hunting holiday, camping, etc. This rule doesn't make sense for these scenarios.

8- When moving house the last thing you think of is notifying police about it. This should stay to after the move and the stress of moving is finished. This rule is asking for people to get in trouble. Also moving normally takes weeks for full families, this rule doesn't allow any flexibility.

11. Similarly to number 8, this should be after, not before. Again not something that comes to mind and it isn't if you don't know about these changes in a reasonable timeframe.

12 To this point, I will refuse to show police where gun safe keys are kept. So while I am happy to provide my firearms upon request, they must give you time/privacy to produce them.

18. As a farmer and shooting for pests, I would not we happy to have a magazine hold below 10 bullets. To be honest, life would be easier if I could hold 20 when using my property protection permit.

Additionally, I would like to see the issuing of sound suppressors so I could have more success when trying to shoot cockies (property protection permit) and not disturb the neighbours and their horses.

Some of these proposed changes will impact farmers and we shouldn't be disadvantaged due to weaknesses in Australia's counterterrorism systems and responses to antisemitism (ABC news on 29 April).

[Redacted]

Regards

[Redacted]

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 5 August 2026 9:12 AM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Feedback on the Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026

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

Dear Mr Ellis,

Thank you for the opportunity to give feedback on the Firearms Amendment Bill 2026.

1. I disagree with the Firearms Register being made into one nation-wide database as this would give a one stop shop for hackers to access all the firearms licence information. Recent events have underlined the fact that none of these databases are totally secure.

At least with State held registers, the options are more widespread.

The rules need to be different in each state as we have a country as big as Europe with a diversity of conditions and requirements, so each state should have different rules.

2. I disagree with the introduction of a firearms cap because people with different businesses (farming) and sporting interests require different firearms depending upon each situation.

3. I disagree with the restrictions on button and lever release firearms, as I believe that anyone competent and experienced with bolt action firearms can operate just as swiftly.

4. I believe that old, historical or obsolete firearms should not be required to be licensed as they are not practical weapons, especially if ammunition is not commercially available. Many owners of these items are custodians for future generations, not necessarily people wanting to be practical firearm users. Possibly there should be a different category for non-using owners.

5. Finally, I support the idea of the implementation of licences only being granted to citizens, and I support much harsher penalties for any firearms offences as the granting of a firearms licence is a contract to abide by the rules. The 3 month mandatory minimum sentence for knowingly possessing stolen firearms is insufficient.

Paragraph 7 of the Consultation Information Sheet suggests that if firearms are away from the licenced address for more than 24 hours, the owner would need to notify Tasmania Police. Does this mean that if I am away for a weekend shoot, that I need to advise the police every time?

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 August 2026 16:25
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: FW: Consultation on the Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026

You don't often get email from jec1@iinet.net.au. [Learn why this is important](#)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 7 August 2026 3:29 PM
To: 'subbmissions.strategy.support@DPFEM.tas.gov.au' <subbmissions.strategy.support@DPFEM.tas.gov.au>
Subject: Consultation on the Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026

I wish to make the following points in relation to the above Government Bill.

I am in favour of the following:

1. A National Firearms Register.
2. Citizens provisions for gun licences.
3. Buyback of affected reclassified guns.

In addition the following should be included in the new bill.

1. A limit on the number of guns an individual can own.
2. An increased limit for collectors of antique guns with the age and type of the guns clearly defined.
Collections to be securely stored in a method defined in the bill.



Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 7 August 2026 1:58 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: STOP Firearms Amendment Bill

[REDACTED]

To whom it may concern,

Enough with the rules and regulations for gun owners.

I grew up around guns, as did with my father and grandfather. We used to have one at the back door as a child for snakes, sick or injured stock/wildlife etc. you could even buy them from Kmart back then.

We were taught how to use them responsibly.

Since then you have gun registration.. then came a licence (one off payment).

- Now the licence is a yearly payment

- Pay for permits to shoot wallaby yearly

- Pay for deer permit yearly

- Properly protection permits yearly (just to spotlight even) on top of animal permit.

- Etc etc...

.Written permission and from landowners etc. crown land (Carry while shooting or be fined) .Had to pass in automatic weapons .Buy gun safes...\$\$\$\$ then buy more cause they upped the standards .Lock ammunition separately .Buy trigger locks .Buy lock boxes for ammo .Get security surveillance on gun safes (if more 10 or more firearms) .Have no criminal record or will be confiscated .Have police in your home to check all is correct periodically

It just keeps going to the point of ridiculousness.

I own a small acreage amongst farming land and people aren't shooting much anymore, with all the hassle and cost involved to shoot a wallaby for tea.

The area is at plague proportions now and a lot more deer moving into the area.

Soon the wallaby will be starving to death and dropping dead around us.

Farmers can't keep up with it, having to buy in feed.

Casual shooters could help more with this and use the meat etc.

But it will end up a government cull and mass dumpage and waste of edible meat.

Things need to be made easier for these people and less costly.

I think the government needs to:

CONCENTRATE ON ACTUAL CRIMINALS AND CRIMINAL ACTIVITY INSTEAD OF TREATING GUN OWNERS LIKE CRIMINALS.

LEAVE the innocent people who have paid the price so much already alone.

We've been restricted and paid enough personally and monetarily STOP THIS BILL

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 7 August 2026 12:54 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Firearms amendment

[REDACTED]

I've some concerns with the proposed legislation. None of it actually addresses the issue that happened in Bondi. Terrorists shouldn't have firearms and our federal agencies failed miserably.

Straight pull bolt action reclassification is just nonsense, these guns are often from Europe and countries with strict firearms laws. It's a basic bolt action, they shouldn't be basically banned, it's a knee jerk reaction.

Caps reducing the amount of firearms that can be legally held won't make anyone safer, most states in Australia have rejected this. Each firearm is a tool in a toolbox for different jobs, the right calibre for the right scenario and animal or sport.

Having to report each time the firearm leaves storage to the police while you go hunting is just administrative bureaucracy gone mad. It'll probably get hacked into releasing to crooks what kind of firearms you have and when would be a good time to rob you while you are away.

Criminals don't follow laws. Why punish those that follow laws. Firearm owners are incredibly responsible people involved in the community, from hunting to primary producers and sport competitions. Leave the good guys alone maybe go after some actual criminals.

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 7 August 2026 11:55 AM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Letter supporting responsible firearm ownership

Letter Supporting Responsible Firearm Ownership

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to express my support for responsible firearm owners retaining their legally owned firearms. I understand the current statistics on firearm theft and that keeping the public safe is a top priority, however, penalising those who have always been law abiding and adhere to the strict firearm ownership policy should also be listened to for their own views.

For me, [REDACTED] living in a small regional community, firearm ownership is an important part of their way of life. I use firearms for legitimate purposes such as hunting, sport shooting, pest control, farming activities, and personal collection. Responsible owners invest significant time, money and effort in complying with licensing requirements, secure storage regulations, and safety training.

Law-abiding firearm owners should not be penalized for the actions of individuals who misuse firearms. The vast majority of licensed gun owners follow the law and demonstrate a strong commitment to safe and responsible handling practices. Existing licensing and registration systems help ensure that firearms remain in the hands of suitable individuals while promoting public safety. In rural and remote communities, firearms can also serve practical purposes, including protecting livestock and managing pest animals. For many farmers, access to firearms is an important tool for daily operations and animal welfare.

Furthermore, responsible firearm ownership in Tasmania is often passed down through generations as part of family traditions, sporting activities, and cultural heritage. Shooting sports continue to be enjoyed by many Australians and are conducted under strict safety standards.

I absolutely believe that policies concerning firearms should focus on public safety while respecting the rights and responsibilities of licensed, law-abiding owners. Maintaining fair regulations and encouraging ongoing education and safe storage practices is a more effective approach than restricting responsible individuals who have demonstrated their commitment to following the law.

I am also writing to express my concern regarding any proposed firearms buyback scheme that offers compensation significantly below the fair market value of surrendered firearms.

Many firearm owners have acquired their firearms legally, often at substantial personal expense, while complying with all licensing, registration, storage, and safety requirements. I have personally spent thousands of dollars in my firearms. They were purchased in good faith under the laws that existed at the time. As such, owners should be compensated fairly if they are required to surrender them.

A buyback scheme that provides compensation well below market value places an unreasonable financial burden on responsible, law-abiding Tasmanians. Many firearms, particularly sporting, hunting, collector, and competition firearms, can represent investments worth thousands of dollars. Low compensation fails to reflect their true value and effectively forces owners to absorb the financial loss resulting from a government policy change.

Fair compensation is also important to maintain public trust. When governments introduce buyback programs, they should recognize that affected owners have complied with the law and should be

treated with respect and fairness. Providing compensation based on independent market valuations helps ensure that individuals are not unfairly disadvantaged.

Additionally, inadequate compensation may reduce participation in the scheme, creating unnecessary conflict and dissatisfaction among stakeholders. A fair and transparent valuation process is more likely to achieve the intended objectives while maintaining goodwill within the community.

This issue is not simply about firearms; it concerns the principle that when the government requires citizens to surrender legally acquired property, those citizens should receive reasonable compensation that reflects the property's actual value.

I respectfully urge policymakers to ensure that any firearms buyback scheme provides fair, transparent, and market-based compensation to affected owners.

Thank you for considering this perspective.

Yours sincerely,

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

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 6 August 2026 6:12 AM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Pointless changes.

[REDACTED]

Firstly, how many criminals are gonna hand there stolen or illegally built firearms in? Bondi wasn't a law abiding firearms owners doing, it was in every way the government's fault for not acting on a threat to this country when they already knew those two were a red flag. Secondly, the gun laws that Tasmanians already have are by far some of the strictest in the world, but because the government can't do its job once again innocent people have to suffer the consequences.

And lastly, this one probably hurts the most. We all know we're gonna lose some of most prized possessions [REDACTED] but we just don't want to admit defeat because it's not our way. But with every decision the government makes even after promising us that they're on our side, we still end up screwed over time and time again. So I'm hoping someone who thinks there pretty important in the big house actually reads this and understands how wrongly the good people of this country are actually being treated.

Ps , mind the punctuation I'm no politician just an ordinary Tassie bloke.

Thanks.

Sent from my iPhone

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 5 August 2026 11:47 AM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026 (the Bill).

[REDACTED]
Hello,

Im writing this submission to point out that it is of my opinion that the proposed firearms ammendments are being forced upon legal firearms owners and users and are grossly and unjustifiably not warranted.

1. There are and were already laws in place to be able to stop the atrocitie that took place at Bondi on that dredful day.
2. This was a failing of the Australian people not just the Jewish people. I believe this could have and should have been picked up by the appropriate government security agencies.
3. The government of the day had decided to underfund the appropriate security agencies and never took the islamic terrorist threat serious enough to keep us safe here in our country.
4. The government's first thing to do was condemn the terrorist and AUTOMATICLY and falsely try and use legal firearms owners as a political SCAPEGOAT to make it look like they were doing something!! This was a disgusting thing to do to innocent firearms owners and morally wrong in my belief nonother demographic ever gets discriminated against like firearms owners do this is purely unjust and immoral in any language.
5. We as firearms owners are under more scrutiny and legal redtape than any other community of people in our country. We are held to a higher responsibility than most.
6. I think the proposed changes to firearms categories and number of firearms is unjust and is only being used for political gain and to give the average citizen a smoke and mirrors extra feeling of community safety given the situation.
7. So there should not be any ammendments to the current firearms laws and the security agencies should be held to account not Legal firearms owners.

So it's in my opinion that we should not be discriminated against as legal firearms owners due to the incompetence of our given Labor government and the Australian security authorities failure to maintain the safety of every Australian citizen.

INDIVIDUAL CONSULTATION SUBMISSION

Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026

Prepared in response to the Tasmanian Government
consultation



Prepared 4 August 2026

Tas Firearms Submission Builder

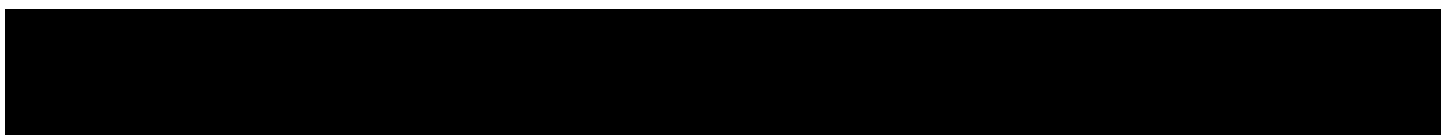


EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Submission summary

Overall, this submission supports 16 amendments, opposes 4, is unsure about 1, and records no comment on 0.





AMENDMENT 1

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

SUPPORT

Reasons given in support

- The change is intended to capture firearms such as those used in the Bondi terrorist attack that may be perceived as having a higher cycling rate than conventional bolt-action firearms.
- A consistent Category C classification may simplify licensing and enforcement.
- The proposal may align regulation more closely with the Government's assessment of the operational characteristics of the affected firearms.

AMENDMENT 2

Australian citizenship as the default firearms-licensing requirement

SUPPORT

Reasons given in support

- A single default rule may simplify eligibility assessments.
- Defined exemptions may preserve access for specific employment or primary-production needs.

AMENDMENT 3

Restriction on on-lending firearms

SUPPORT

Reasons given in support

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

AMENDMENT 4

Verification of borrower licence and storage

SUPPORT

Reasons given in support

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

Additional comments

This already happens amongst sensible owners

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.

Additional comments

Consistency in terminology between state borders is a good thing

AMENDMENT 6

Clarification of firearm and firearm-part definitions

OPPOSE

Concerns that have been raised

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

Suggested alternatives

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

AMENDMENT 7

Notification of storage away from the owner's residence

OPPOSE

Concerns that have been raised

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

Additional comments

This is far too restrictive for hunting trips. Firearms are used on trips and returned to primary storage location. If more than a week or traveling interstate I can understand

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

Before is unrealistic. After a move is far more realistic. I have moved and my firearms stayed with friends in their safe during the transition until my safe moved

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

SUPPORT

Reasons given in support

- A shorter period may keep Tasmanian records current.
- It creates a uniform rule across licence categories.
- Early application may reduce uncertainty about local requirements.

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.

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

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

SUPPORT

Reasons given in support

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

AMENDMENT 15

Summary trial option for unlawful firearms trafficking

SUPPORT

Reasons given in support

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

AMENDMENT 16

New summary offence of stealing a firearm or firearm part

SUPPORT

Reasons given in support

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

AMENDMENT 17

Expansion of firearm prohibition orders

SUPPORT

Reasons given in support

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

AMENDMENT 18

Magazine ammunition-capacity limits for Category A and B 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.

AMENDMENT 19

Updated identification requirements for licence applications

SUPPORT

Reasons given in support

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

AMENDMENT 20

Three-month mandatory minimum imprisonment for stolen-firearm offences

SUPPORT

Reasons given in support

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

AMENDMENT 21

Electronic firearms dealer record keeping

SUPPORT

Reasons given in support

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

Further suggestions

- Publish the evidence relied upon for each firearm reclassification and explain the expected public-safety benefit.
- Separate broadly supported administrative and criminal-law reforms from contentious firearm reclassification proposals.
- Provide clear grandfathering, compensation and transition arrangements for owners of firearms or magazines that are currently lawful.
- Review each affected firearm type individually rather than grouping manually operated actions together without demonstrated evidence of equivalent risk.
- Introduce recognised security ratings for safes based on the number and type of firearms stored.
- Introduce enhanced storage requirements for larger firearm collections.
- Focus future reforms on reducing theft, unlawful possession and criminal misuse while minimising unnecessary impacts on people already complying with the law.

Closing comments

- 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@DPFEM.tas.gov.au

To Whom it May Concern.

I write to you with regards to the proposed changes to Firearm Laws within Tasmania

I support stronger penalties for the theft of firearms, stronger penalties and mandatory minimums for possessing stolen firearms and laws that target criminals.

I oppose reclassifying straight-pull and lever/button-release centre-fire rifles and shotguns to Category C.

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. Any buyback scheme would amount to the forced seizure of private property. Owners have invested thousands of dollars in these firearms, including specialized optics and custom modifications tailored to their specific needs for sporting and recreational shooting. A government-mandated "market value," even with a premium attached, is unlikely to cover the total investment and completely ignores the sentimental value of these items. This policy would punish them for their dedication to a legal sport.

I oppose new detachable magazine limits on Category A and B firearms.

New magazine limits on Category A and B have no proven safety benefit. Limiting round capacity in magazines is negated by acquiring multiple magazines. Criminals ignore magazine rules.

I oppose new restrictive lending rules that require National Firearms Register verification and 24-hour notification if a firearm is stored away from the registered address.

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.

I oppose National Firearms Register real-time notification and verification rules.

The National Firearms Register creates a high-value target for hackers after major Australian data breaches.

I oppose continued reliance on broad Commissioner exemptions instead of clear and concise legislation.

I oppose any legislation that caps the number of firearms a licensed person can possess.

Tasmania should recognise equivalent interstate/overseas licences to support regional tourism and hunting.

Suppressors are occupational health and safety equipment, not silent weapons.

Most of the proposed measures target the wrong people. Licensed firearm owners are not the problem. They have passed police background checks, met stringent storage requirements, and are statistically proven to be exceptionally law-abiding. The criminals who pose a threat to society do not follow legislation; they acquire and use illegal firearms. Reclassifying legally owned firearms and forcing their sale does absolutely nothing to stop a criminal from obtaining a gun on the black market. The focus should be on cracking down on illegal importation, trafficking, and the criminal misuse of firearms, not on creating bureaucratic hurdles for responsible citizens.

Ultimately, these proposals erode the trust between the government and the hundreds of thousands of registered, responsible firearm owners. Instead of punishing them, the government should see this community as an ally in promoting genuine firearm safety. Resources would be far better spent on bolstering police capabilities to fight gun crime and putting into effect the already adequate legislation.

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 31 July 2026 2:11 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Firearms Amendment Bill 2026

[REDACTED]

I am writing to opposing unfair firearms law changes.

Being a licensed firearm owner, hunter, clay target shooter& supporter of outdoor recreation.

As a licensed firearms owner,we are already subject to strict rules,checks & responsibilities.

The focus should be on illegal firearms,criminal misuse & proper enforcement of existing laws,not on restriction on people who already are doing the right thing.

Shooting & hunting are important way of life for people.

Shooting clubs provide supervised enviroment for all families & volunteers in communities.

Firearms are tools for pest control,land management & food gathering.

I believe any changes to firearm laws be based on proper evidence.

The people most affected by the laws deserve to be heard before decisions are made.

Please DO NOT support changes that punish law
abiding firearm owners in Tasmania.

Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 8 July 2026 8:56 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Firearms bill 2026

[REDACTED]

To whom it may concern

After reading through the bill being tabled, I can see no issue. Sure the reclassification of some center fire and shotguns is a bit obscure and potentially unnecessary but it's a very small amount of firearms being affected. What I am concerned about though is the fact that Labour and Peter George have expressed their desire to enforce caps on firearms owned by an individual. The issue being what possible information or evidence can they deliver that show this would be in the benefit of public safety?
There is none.....

Firearm license owners are the most scrutinised group of people in our community, they are not the issue, the issue is the unlawful owners and criminals. Capping licensed owners just makes them into a scape goat for labour

Thanks for your time [REDACTED]

Submissions.Strategy.Support

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

[REDACTED]
To whom it may concern,

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

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

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

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

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

Again, this amendment is borne of a knee-jerk reaction by the Labor Government over the events at Bondi. My view on this amendment is that the Government is too gutless to propose is that we prohibit residents from specific countries from obtaining firearms licenses in this country, notably countries which produce Islamic extremists.

I propose that if this amendment is to be implemented that it broadens the scope of exemption to nations which are kindred in nature of values to Australia, such as the United Kingdom, the USA, most European countries etc. Furthermore there should be no restriction to the genuine reason, as indeed the most popular reasons will be Recreational Hunting and Vermin control, and Sport and Target shooting and these should be preserved.

Applications for an exemption should take into account any applicant who is a long term resident from any of the aforementioned countries, with good conduct and of good character and is of no concern regarding alignment to non-Australian values.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,



Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 7 July 2026 10:19 AM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Firearms laws

[REDACTED]

The current firearms laws keep the community safe and law abiding firearms users happy. Criminals don't follow laws so making them tougher in regards to number of firearms owned is unnecessarily putting extra burdens on people doing the right thing. Make laws For illegal guns tougher also target people who have committed crimes with actual jail time and fines.
Sent from my iPhone