

HUON COMBINED SHOOTING CLUB INC.

Submission to the Parliamentary Consultation

Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026

Prepared by

Executive Committee

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1. Executive Summary

The Huon Combined Shooting Club Inc. welcomes the opportunity to provide this submission on the *Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026*.

The Executive Committee recognises that effective firearms regulation is an essential component of community safety and supports legislative measures that strengthen law enforcement capability, reduce the diversion of firearms into illicit markets and improve the administration of Tasmania's firearms licensing system. In particular, the Committee supports implementation of the National Firearms Register and other administrative reforms that improve intelligence sharing, firearm tracing and regulatory efficiency.

This submission does not oppose firearms regulation. Rather, it examines whether the principal reforms proposed by the Bill are supported by sufficient evidence, are proportionate to the public safety objectives they seek to achieve and are capable of practical implementation.

Throughout this submission, the Committee has assessed the Bill against four guiding principles:

- legislative reform should address clearly identified public safety risks;
- regulatory measures should be supported by appropriate evidence;
- restrictions should be proportionate to the risks they seek to address; and
- legislation should be practical to administer, provide sufficient certainty to enable compliance, and be capable of objective evaluation.

Applying these principles, the Committee generally supports those provisions of the Bill directed towards administrative modernisation, implementation of the National Firearms Register, electronic licence verification, improved information sharing and measures that strengthen the response to firearm theft, unlawful trafficking and organised criminal activity.

The Committee's observations are directed principally towards those proposals that would substantially alter existing regulatory arrangements, create significant new obligations for lawful licence holders, or depend upon practical implementation to achieve their intended public safety outcomes. In particular, the submission examines:

- the proposed reclassification of straight-pull and button- or lever-release centre-fire firearms;
- amendments affecting licensed firearm collectors;
- the proposed citizenship and residency requirements for firearms licensing;
- the practical operation of new administrative obligations;
- temporary lending and borrowing arrangements; and
- the continuing role of approved shooting clubs within Tasmania's firearms regulatory framework.

In each case, the Committee has sought to identify the relevant public policy considerations, acknowledge the objectives of the proposed reforms and examine whether the legislative response is appropriately targeted and capable of achieving its intended outcomes.

The Committee also notes that proposals relating to numerical limits on firearm ownership have featured prominently during public consultation. As these proposals are not contained within the *Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026*, they have not been the subject of detailed analysis in this submission. Should such proposals be advanced through future legislation, they would warrant separate consultation and independent assessment.

Overall, the Executive Committee considers that the Bill contains many worthwhile reforms that are likely to improve the effectiveness of Tasmania's firearms regulatory framework. At the same time, several proposals would benefit from further examination to ensure that they are supported by appropriate evidence, implemented in a practical and transparent manner, provide sufficient certainty to promote voluntary compliance, and remain proportionate to the public safety objectives they seek to achieve.

The Committee respectfully commends this submission to Parliament and trusts that the observations and recommendations it contains will assist in the consideration of the *Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026*.

2. Findings and Recommendations

2.1 Findings

Finding 1: Effective firearms legislation should address clearly identified public safety risks and be supported by objective evidence demonstrating that the proposed measures are likely to improve community safety.

Finding 2: Legislative measures affecting lawful firearm owners should remain proportionate, practical to administer and capable of objective evaluation.

Finding 3: Approved shooting clubs form an important component of Tasmania's firearms safety framework through education, supervision, mentoring and the promotion of responsible firearm ownership.

Finding 4: The Executive Committee supports implementation of the National Firearms Register and recognises its potential to improve intelligence sharing, firearms tracing and law enforcement capability throughout Australia.

Finding 5: Administrative modernisation should improve both regulatory effectiveness and the experience of lawful licence holders by reducing unnecessary duplication and complexity.

Finding 6: Legislative effort directed towards firearm theft, unlawful trafficking and organised criminal activity is likely to deliver the greatest public safety benefit.

Finding 7: The proposed reclassification would remove from lawful civilian ownership a class of firearms that has previously been considered suitable for licensing under Tasmania's firearms legislation. Such a significant departure from the existing legislative framework warrants a clear and compelling evidentiary justification.

Finding 8: The consultation material does not publicly demonstrate why existing regulatory controls are inadequate or why reclassification represents the most appropriate regulatory response.

Finding 9: The Committee has not identified evidence within the consultation material demonstrating that the mechanical characteristics of straight-pull and button- or lever-release centre-fire firearms have resulted in a level of public safety risk that distinguishes them from other manually operated firearms lawfully owned under the existing legislative framework.

Finding 10: The proposed amendments would have significant consequences for lawful firearm owners, recognised sporting disciplines and associated businesses, and those consequences should be fully assessed alongside the anticipated public safety benefits.

Finding 11: Licensed firearm collectors perform an important role in preserving Tasmania's military, policing, agricultural, sporting and technological heritage through the lawful acquisition, conservation and documentation of historically significant firearms.

Finding 12: Licensed collectors already operate within a comprehensive regulatory framework that includes licensing, registration, secure storage, inspection powers and ongoing oversight by Tasmania Police.

Finding 13: The Committee has not identified evidence within the consultation material demonstrating that the existing regulatory framework governing licensed firearm collectors is inadequate, or that collectors represent a level of public safety risk requiring additional regulation beyond that already provided by the Firearms Act 1996.

Finding 14: The proposed storage notification requirements may have disproportionate practical consequences for licensed collectors and other licence holders who lawfully maintain firearms at multiple approved storage locations.

Finding 15: The proposed citizenship and residency requirements represent a significant change to the firearms licensing eligibility framework and warrant careful consideration of their practical operation.

Finding 16: Ensuring that licence holders have an identifiable and ongoing connection with Tasmania is a legitimate regulatory objective.

Finding 17: The effectiveness of the proposed amendments will depend substantially upon transparent exemption processes, clear administrative guidance and appropriate implementation arrangements.

Finding 18: The practical operation of the proposed citizenship and residency requirements will depend not only upon the statutory provisions themselves but also upon the consistent and transparent exercise of the Commissioner's discretionary powers.

Finding 19: Administrative reform is an important component of effective firearms regulation and should improve both regulatory efficiency and voluntary compliance.

Finding 20: Administrative obligations should remain practical, proportionate and capable of being readily complied with by lawful licence holders.

Finding 21: Parliament should consider the cumulative effect of multiple administrative amendments, particularly upon volunteer-run approved shooting clubs and other organisations that play an important role in Tasmania's firearms regulatory framework.

Finding 22: the effectiveness of the proposed inspection powers will depend upon clear administrative guidance describing the practical operation of proposed section 82A.

Finding 23: Temporary lending of firearms is an established and legitimate component of Tasmania's firearms regulatory framework when undertaken between appropriately licensed persons in accordance with legislative requirements.

Finding 24: The proposed electronic licence verification system appears capable of strengthening regulatory compliance while reducing the likelihood of firearms being transferred to persons who are not authorised to possess them.

Finding 25: The effectiveness of the proposed lending provisions will depend upon licence holders being able to clearly understand the reasonable enquiries expected before temporarily lending a firearm.

Finding 26: Administrative guidance accompanying the proposed amendments is likely to improve voluntary compliance, promote consistent decision-making by licence holders and reduce the risk of inadvertent non-compliance.

Finding 27: Approved shooting clubs form an integral component of Tasmania's firearms regulatory framework through the provision of ongoing firearms safety education, supervision and practical reinforcement of legislative compliance.

Finding 28: Volunteer-run shooting clubs contribute to public safety, recognised sporting activities and regional communities through functions that complement the statutory licensing and enforcement framework.

Finding 29: Continued engagement between Government, Tasmania Police and approved shooting clubs is likely to support effective implementation of legislative reform and encourage voluntary compliance.

2.2 Recommendations

Recommendation 1: That Parliament evaluate each substantive amendment contained within the *Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026* against the principles of evidence-based regulation, proportionality, practical implementation and measurable public safety benefit.

Recommendation 2: That where significant restrictions upon lawful firearm ownership are proposed, Parliament should be satisfied that:

- the public safety risk has been clearly identified;

• the evidentiary basis for the proposal has been demonstrated; • less restrictive alternatives have been considered; and • the anticipated public safety benefits outweigh the impact upon lawful firearm owners and approved sporting organisations.
Recommendation 3: That the ongoing contribution of approved shooting clubs to firearms safety education, supervised participation and legislative compliance be recognised as an important consideration in the development of future firearms policy.
Recommendation 4: That Parliament support those provisions necessary to implement the National Firearms Register, subject to appropriate safeguards relating to privacy, cybersecurity and data integrity.
Recommendation 5: That administrative reforms associated with the National Firearms Register be implemented in a manner that simplifies compliance for lawful licence holders, approved shooting clubs and firearms dealers wherever practicable.
Recommendation 6: That Government continue to prioritise legislative and operational measures directed towards preventing firearm theft, unlawful trafficking and diversion into illicit markets as the most effective means of improving community safety.
Recommendation 7: That Parliament satisfy itself that the evidentiary basis supporting the proposed reclassification has been clearly established and that the anticipated public safety benefits justify the proposed amendments.
Recommendation 8: That, before proceeding with the proposed reclassification, Parliament satisfy itself that there is clear evidence demonstrating that the affected firearms present a materially greater public safety risk than other manually operated firearms currently lawfully possessed in Tasmania, and that reclassification represents the least restrictive regulatory measure capable of achieving the Government's stated public safety objectives.
Recommendation 9: Should Parliament proceed with the proposed reclassification, any compensation scheme should provide fair market compensation, be independently administered and be developed following consultation with affected stakeholders.
Recommendation 10: That Parliament recognise the distinct purpose of licensed firearm collecting when considering amendments affecting collector licences.
Recommendation 11: That any amendments affecting collectors preserve appropriate opportunities for the lawful acquisition, preservation and display of historically significant firearms, consistent with public safety objectives.

Recommendation 12: That Parliament ensure any additional regulatory requirements applying to collectors are proportionate to the identified public safety risk and supported by objective evidence.

Recommendation 13: That administrative guidance accompanying the new storage notification requirements include practical examples illustrating how the provisions are intended to operate where firearms are lawfully stored at multiple approved locations or temporarily transferred for conservation, repair or exhibition.

Recommendation 14: That the Government publish comprehensive guidance explaining the operation of the proposed citizenship and residency requirements before commencement of the legislation.

Recommendation 15: That clear administrative guidance be developed describing the operation of the Commissioner's exemption powers, including the factors likely to be considered in determining applications.

Recommendation 16: That implementation arrangements provide existing licence holders with sufficient time and information to understand the new requirements and, where necessary, seek an exemption before their next licence renewal.

Recommendation 17: That Tasmania Police publish administrative guidance describing the factors that may be considered when exercising the Commissioner's discretionary powers under clauses 14 to 17, including illustrative examples where appropriate, to promote consistency, transparency and public confidence in the firearms licensing system.

Recommendation 18: That Parliament ensure all new administrative obligations are supported by practical guidance, modern electronic systems and implementation arrangements that facilitate compliance.

Recommendation 19: That reasonable flexibility be maintained where strict compliance with notification timeframes is impracticable due to unforeseen or emergency circumstances.

Recommendation 20: That Government continue consultation with approved shooting clubs, firearms dealers and other stakeholders following implementation to identify opportunities for simplification, continuous improvement and reduction of unnecessary administrative burden.

Recommendation 21: That Tasmania Police publish administrative guidance describing the practical operation of proposed section 82A, including the circumstances in which inspections may occur, and the expectations placed upon licence holders.

Recommendation 22: That Parliament support the introduction of an electronic licence verification system, if it is reliable, accessible and protects personal information appropriately.

Recommendation 23: That Tasmania Police publish comprehensive guidance explaining the operation of proposed section 121A before commencement of the legislation, including the reasonable enquiries expected of lenders and borrowers in common practical situations.

Recommendation 24: That the guidance include practical examples illustrating compliant temporary lending arrangements during organised competitions, approved club activities, hunting, coaching and other common lawful circumstances.

Recommendation 25: That the operation of the new lending provisions be reviewed following implementation to assess whether they have improved regulatory compliance while remaining capable of practical and objective application by ordinary licence holders.

Recommendation 26: That Parliament recognise the contribution of approved shooting clubs as an important supporting element of Tasmania's firearms regulatory framework.

Recommendation 27: That Tasmania Police continue to engage with approved shooting clubs during implementation of the Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026 and the National Firearms Register.

Recommendation 28: That Government establish ongoing consultation arrangements with approved shooting clubs and recognised peak bodies to assist with implementation, review and future development of Tasmania's firearms legislation.

3. Introduction and Scope of Submission

3.1 Introduction

1. The Huon Combined Shooting Club Inc. welcomes the opportunity to provide this submission in response to the Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026.
2. The Club has served Tasmania's shooting community for more than three decades and is affiliated with the Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia (Tasmania) (SSAA Tasmania) as Club T11. Through the operation of an approved shooting range, the conduct of organised competitions, firearms safety education and the promotion of responsible firearms ownership, the Club has developed extensive practical experience in the administration and operation of Tasmania's firearms regulatory framework.
3. The Club's membership comprises recreational hunters, competitive target shooters, primary producers, licensed collectors, former and serving members of the Australian Defence Force, emergency service personnel and other members of the Tasmanian community who lawfully own and use firearms for genuine reasons recognised under the Firearms Act 1996 (Tas).
4. The Executive Committee recognises that firearms regulation is an important component of community safety and acknowledges Parliament's responsibility to maintain an effective legislative framework that protects the community while supporting legitimate sporting, recreational, occupational and collecting activities undertaken by fit and proper persons.
5. The Committee also recognises the continuing importance of the National Firearms Agreement and supports nationally consistent reforms where those reforms are supported by evidence, are proportionate to the identified public safety risk and are capable of practical implementation.

3.2 Scope of this Submission

6. This submission addresses the provisions contained within the Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026 and the associated consultation material released by the Tasmanian Government.
7. The Committee has deliberately confined its detailed analysis to measures proposed within the Bill. During the consultation process, broader firearms policy proposals—including proposals relating to numerical firearm ownership caps—have been raised in public debate. As these proposals do not form part of the Bill currently under consultation, they are addressed only briefly where necessary to distinguish them from the legislative proposals before Parliament.
8. The Committee has sought to distinguish between matters contained within the Bill and broader policy issues to ensure that this submission remains focused upon the legislation presently under consideration.

3.3 Purpose of the Submission

9. This submission should not be interpreted as opposition to firearms regulation. On the contrary, the Committee supports legislative measures that:

- improve community safety;
- strengthen law enforcement capability;
- reduce firearm theft and unlawful trafficking;
- improve the tracing of firearms;
- strengthen intelligence sharing through the National Firearms Register;
- modernise administrative processes where this improves efficiency without imposing unnecessary regulatory burden; and
- maintain public confidence in Tasmania's firearms licensing system.

10. The Committee's observations are directed to whether legislative proposals are supported by sufficient evidence to demonstrate that they are necessary, proportionate and likely to achieve their intended public safety objectives.

11. Where concerns are identified, the Committee has sought to propose practical alternatives or matters that Parliament may wish to consider, rather than simply opposing individual proposals.

3.4 Principles Guiding this Submission

12. The Committee has assessed the proposed amendments against four overarching principles of good public policy:

- legislation should be evidence-based;
- regulation should be proportionate to the identified public safety risk;
- administrative requirements should be practical and capable of efficient implementation; and
- significant legislative reforms should be subject to ongoing evaluation to determine whether they have achieved their intended objectives.

13. These principles provide the framework against which the Committee has considered each of the principal measures contained within the Bill.

4. About the Huon Combined Shooting Club

4.1 Introduction

14. The Huon Combined Shooting Club Inc. (HCSC) is an approved shooting club affiliated with the Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia (Tasmania) (SSAA Tasmania) as Club T11.

15. For more than 30 years the Club has promoted the safe, lawful and responsible use of firearms through organised sporting competition, firearms safety education and the supervised participation of members in recognised shooting disciplines.

16. The Club operates an approved shooting range under lease from Sustainable Timber Tasmania and is administered entirely by volunteers who collectively contribute significant time to governance, range management, maintenance, coaching, competition administration and firearms safety.

17. The Executive Committee considers that the practical experience gained through the operation of a long-established approved shooting club provides a valuable perspective on the likely operation of the proposed legislative amendments.

4.2 Membership

18. The Club currently has approximately 260 members, making it one of the larger regional shooting clubs in Tasmania.

19. Its membership reflects a broad cross-section of the Tasmanian community and includes:

- recreational hunters;
- competitive target shooters;
- primary producers;
- licensed firearm collectors;
- former and serving members of the Australian Defence Force;
- emergency service personnel; and
- other members who lawfully possess firearms for genuine reasons recognised under the Firearms Act 1996 (Tas).

20. The diversity of the Club's membership provides the Executive Committee with practical insight into how proposed legislative amendments may affect a wide range of lawful firearm owners.

4.3 Activities and facilities

21. The Club conducts organised shooting activities on at least two occasions during most weekends throughout the year and provides opportunities for members to participate in a wide variety of recognised rifle, pistol and shotgun disciplines.

22. The Club's facilities support both recreational participation and formal competition, while providing a structured environment in which firearms safety and legislative compliance

are reinforced through supervised participation and the application of comprehensive range procedures.

23. The Executive Committee places particular emphasis on:

- firearms safety;
- responsible firearm ownership;
- compliance with legislative requirements;
- safe range management;
- education of new shooters;
- ethical hunting practices; and
- continual improvement of range procedures.

24. All organised shooting activities are conducted under established range rules and the supervision of appropriately qualified Range Officers.

4.4 Contribution to community safety

25. Approved shooting clubs play an important role within Tasmania's firearms regulatory framework by providing structured environments in which lawful firearm owners develop and maintain safe firearms handling skills.

26. Through ongoing education, mentoring and supervised participation, the Club assists members to understand and comply with their legislative obligations while promoting responsible attitudes towards firearm ownership.

27. The Executive Committee considers that these activities complement the objectives of the Firearms Act 1996 by encouraging safe firearms handling, secure storage, legislative compliance and responsible participation in recognised shooting disciplines.

4.5 Contribution to the Tasmanian community

28. In addition to its contribution to firearms safety, the Club makes a broader contribution to the Tasmanian community through sporting participation, volunteer service and support for regional events.

29. The Club regularly conducts competitions and training activities in conjunction with SSAA Tasmania and other approved organisations and provides opportunities for members to participate in organised sporting events throughout the year.

30. Club members assist in hosting SSAA national events, demonstrating the capacity of volunteer-run organisations to successfully conduct major events while maintaining high standards of safety and organisation.

31. The Club also contributes to the regional economy through expenditure associated with competitions, visitor participation, accommodation, local businesses, firearms retailers and associated industries.

4.6 Governance

32. The Huon Combined Shooting Club is managed by an elected Executive Committee operating under the Club's Constitution.

33. The Committee is responsible for ensuring that the Club complies with all legislative requirements relating to firearms, range operations, governance and member safety.

34. The Committee recognises that firearms ownership carries significant responsibilities and supports appropriate regulatory oversight that is practical, evidence-based and proportionate to identifiable risks.

4.7 Committee observation

35. The Huon Combined Shooting Club Inc. is a long-established, volunteer-operated organisation that promotes firearms safety, responsible firearm ownership and legislative compliance through organised sporting participation and education.

36. The Committee considers that this practical experience provides a sound basis upon which to comment on the likely operation of the Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026.

5. Framework for Assessing the Bill

5.1 Introduction

37. The Executive Committee recognises that the regulation of firearms is a legitimate and important function of government. The primary purpose of Tasmania's firearms legislation should continue to be the protection of the community through measures that reduce the risk of criminal misuse of firearms while supporting lawful ownership by persons who satisfy the statutory requirements of the Firearms Act 1996 (Tas).

38. The Committee also recognises that legislative frameworks must evolve. Advances in technology, changing patterns of criminal offending, improvements in national information sharing and evolving community expectations may all justify amendments to existing legislation. Accordingly, the Committee supports periodic review of Tasmania's firearms legislation where there is a demonstrated need for reform.

39. The purpose of this chapter is not to advocate for or against any individual proposal contained within the Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026. Rather, it establishes the principles against which the Committee has assessed each of the substantive measures contained within the Bill. These principles reflect widely accepted concepts of good legislative design and public administration and provide a consistent analytical framework for the observations and recommendations that follow.

5.2 Principle 1 – Regulation should address an identified risk

40. Legislation should respond to a clearly identified public policy problem. Where Parliament proposes significant amendments affecting lawful firearm ownership, it should be possible to identify:

- the public safety risk being addressed;
- the evidence demonstrating that the risk exists;
- the way the proposed amendment is expected to reduce that risk; and
- how the effectiveness of the amendment can subsequently be evaluated.

41. The Committee considers that a clear relationship should exist between the identified risk and the proposed legislative response. Without that relationship, additional regulation may impose significant obligations upon lawful licence holders without producing a corresponding improvement in community safety.

5.3 Principle 2 – Regulation should be evidence-based

42. Evidence-based decision making is a fundamental principle of sound public administration. Where legislation proposes significant restrictions affecting lawful firearm owners, Parliament should, wherever practicable, have access to the evidence supporting those proposals.

43. Depending upon the nature of the amendment, relevant evidence may include:

- operational data from Tasmania Police;

- Australian Institute of Criminology research;
- National Firearms Agreement reviews;
- judicial decisions;
- independent academic research;
- comparative legislative analysis;
- crime and firearms statistics.

44. The Committee acknowledges that operational intelligence will not always be capable of public disclosure. Nevertheless, where legislation proposes substantial changes affecting thousands of lawful licence holders, Parliament should be satisfied that the available evidence supports both the need for reform and the regulatory mechanism selected.

5.4 Principle 3 – Regulation should be proportionate

45. Effective legislation should impose restrictions that are proportionate to the level of public risk being addressed. Where multiple regulatory options are available, preference should generally be given to measures that:

- achieve the intended public safety outcome;
- impose the least unnecessary burden;
- preserve legitimate sporting, occupational and recreational activities;
- minimise unintended consequences; and
- remain practical to administer.

46. This principle recognises that licensed firearm owners have already demonstrated their suitability through background checking, firearms safety training, genuine reason requirements, registration processes and continuing compliance obligations.

5.5 Principle 4 – Legislative effort should be directed towards criminal misuse

47. The Committee strongly supports legislative measures directed towards:

- firearm theft;
- unlawful trafficking;
- organised criminal activity;
- unlawful manufacture;
- possession by prohibited persons; and
- diversion of firearms into illicit markets.

48. These activities present an entirely different risk profile from the lawful possession of firearms by licensed persons who have satisfied all statutory requirements.

49. The Committee considers that the greatest public safety benefit is likely to be achieved where legislative effort is directed towards preventing criminal misuse rather than imposing additional restrictions upon persons whose suitability has already been established.

5.6 Principle 5 – Approved shooting clubs are public safety partners

50. Approved shooting clubs are an important component of Tasmania's firearms regulatory framework. Through volunteer effort, clubs provide:

- firearms safety education;
- supervised participation;
- mentoring of new shooters;
- Range Officer oversight;
- reinforcement of legislative compliance; and
- continuing competency through regular participation.

51. These activities support the objectives of the Firearms Act 1996 by promoting safe firearms handling and responsible firearm ownership.

52. The Committee therefore considers that approved shooting clubs should be regarded as partners in achieving public safety outcomes rather than simply as stakeholders affected by regulation.

5.7 Principle 6 – Regulation should be practical and administratively efficient

53. Legislation is most effective when it is capable of being readily understood, consistently administered and reasonably complied with. Many approved shooting clubs throughout Tasmania are administered almost entirely by volunteers. Similarly, lawful firearm owners are expected to comply with a wide range of statutory obligations governing licensing, storage, acquisition, transport and use.

54. The Committee therefore considers that legislative amendments should minimise unnecessary complexity and administrative burden while continuing to support effective regulatory oversight. Practical legislation encourages voluntary compliance and promotes confidence in the regulatory system.

5.8 Principle 7 – Consultation improves legislative outcomes

55. The Committee welcomes the Government's decision to undertake public consultation before introducing these reforms. Consultation enables Parliament to benefit from the practical experience of organisations and individuals responsible for administering firearms legislation daily.

56. Approved shooting clubs, firearms dealers, collectors, primary producers, competitive shooters and recreational hunters collectively possess extensive experience operating within Tasmania's existing regulatory framework.

57. The Committee submits that this practical experience should be considered alongside empirical evidence and operational advice when assessing proposed legislative reforms.

5.9 Principle 8 – Legislative reform should be capable of evaluation

58. Good legislation should be capable of subsequent evaluation. Where significant reforms are introduced, Government should identify the outcomes against which success will be measured. Depending upon the proposal, these outcomes may include:

- reductions in firearm theft;
- reductions in unlawful trafficking;
- improvements in firearm tracing;
- improvements in regulatory compliance;
- reductions in administrative processing times; and
- improved interoperability through the National Firearms Register.

59. Clearly identified performance measures improve transparency and provide future Parliaments with an objective basis for assessing whether legislative reforms have achieved their intended purpose.

5.10 Committee Findings

Finding 1: Effective firearms legislation should address clearly identified public safety risks and be supported by objective evidence demonstrating that the proposed measures are likely to improve community safety.

Finding 2: Legislative measures affecting lawful firearm owners should remain proportionate, practical to administer and capable of objective evaluation.

Finding 3: Approved shooting clubs form an important component of Tasmania's firearms safety framework through education, supervision, mentoring and the promotion of responsible firearm ownership.

5.11 Recommendations

Recommendation 1: That Parliament evaluate each substantive amendment contained within the *Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026* against the principles of evidence-based regulation, proportionality, practical implementation and measurable public safety benefit.

Recommendation 2: That where significant restrictions upon lawful firearm ownership are proposed, Parliament should be satisfied that:

- the public safety risk has been clearly identified;
- the evidentiary basis for the proposal has been demonstrated;
- less restrictive alternatives have been considered; and
- the anticipated public safety benefits outweigh the impact upon lawful firearm owners and approved sporting organisations.

Recommendation 3: That the ongoing contribution of approved shooting clubs to firearms safety education, supervised participation and legislative compliance be recognised as an important consideration in the development of future firearms policy.

6. Measures supported by the Executive Committee

6.1 Introduction

60. The Executive Committee considers that a significant proportion of the Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026 comprises sensible administrative and law enforcement reforms that are likely to improve the operation of Tasmania's firearms regulatory framework. In particular, the Committee supports reforms that:

- strengthen law enforcement capability;
- improve the tracing of firearms;
- facilitate national information sharing;
- modernise administrative processes;
- reduce opportunities for firearm theft and unlawful trafficking; and
- improve the efficiency of firearms regulation without imposing unnecessary burdens upon lawful licence holders.

61. The Committee considers that these reforms are broadly consistent with the objectives of the Firearms Act 1996 and the continuing implementation of nationally agreed firearms reforms.

6.2 Relevant Provisions

62. This chapter discusses the administrative and law enforcement amendments contained throughout the Bill, including those relating to implementation of the National Firearms Register, electronic record keeping, information sharing and licence verification. As these reforms are implemented through several separate amendments, the chapter considers them collectively rather than on a clause-by-clause basis.

63. Relevant clauses being:

- clause 13 (verification of licences)
- clause 29 (National Firearms Register amendments)
- clauses 30–31 (electronic dealer records)
- clause 40 (verification for lending)

6.3 National Firearms Register

64. The Executive Committee supports the establishment of the National Firearms Register. Firearms trafficking and organised criminal activity frequently extend beyond State and Territory borders. Accordingly, law enforcement agencies should have timely access to accurate information regarding the lawful ownership, registration and movement of firearms throughout Australia.

65. The Committee considers that a nationally integrated register has the potential to:

- improve the tracing of firearms used in criminal offending;
- reduce opportunities for firearms to move undetected between jurisdictions;

- improve investigative capability;
- support intelligence-led policing;
- enhance officer safety during operational policing;
- improve regulatory consistency between jurisdictions.

66. Provided that appropriate safeguards are maintained, the Committee considers the National Firearms Register to be a worthwhile reform capable of delivering measurable public safety benefits.

6.4 Modernisation of firearms administration

67. The Committee supports measures that modernise the administration of Tasmania's firearms regulatory framework. Administrative systems should be efficient, accurate and proportionate. Where technological improvements simplify compliance while strengthening regulatory oversight, they are likely to benefit both lawful licence holders and Tasmania Police. Accordingly, the Committee supports reforms including:

- electronic dealer record keeping;
- electronic licence verification;
- improved interoperability between Australian jurisdictions;
- consistent terminology supporting national administration; and
- improved electronic exchange of information.

68. The Committee encourages Government to ensure that these systems are reliable, secure and developed in consultation with those responsible for their day-to-day operation.

6.5 Measures directed towards criminal misuse

69. The Committee strongly supports legislative measures directed towards criminal misuse of firearms. In particular, the Committee supports reforms intended to:

- reduce firearm theft;
- disrupt unlawful trafficking;
- strengthen enforcement against organised criminal activity;
- improve the tracing of stolen firearms; and
- enhance investigative capability.

70. The Committee considers that measures directed towards criminal offending are likely to produce greater public safety benefits than additional restrictions directed solely towards persons who have already demonstrated their suitability to possess firearms lawfully.

71. The Committee therefore supports continued legislative emphasis upon preventing the diversion of firearms into illicit markets.

6.6 Supporting compliance through better administration

72. The Committee considers that effective firearms regulation depends not only upon enforcement, but also upon the willingness and ability of lawful licence holders to comply with their statutory obligations.

73. Tasmania's licensing framework already requires licence holders to satisfy comprehensive eligibility requirements, complete firearms safety training, comply with secure storage requirements and obtain permits before acquiring firearms. Administrative reforms should therefore simplify compliance wherever possible.

74. Digital systems should make compliance easier rather than creating additional complexity or duplicating existing processes. Similarly, administrative reform should avoid unnecessarily transferring additional administrative responsibilities to volunteer-run sporting organisations.

6.7 Data integrity and privacy

75. The Committee considers that the success of the National Firearms Register will depend upon the accuracy, security and integrity of the information it contains. Implementation should therefore include:

- validation of existing firearms records;
- efficient mechanisms for correcting administrative errors;
- nationally consistent recording practices;
- strong cybersecurity protections; and
- appropriate privacy safeguards for personal information.

76. The Committee considers these matters fundamental to maintaining confidence in the National Firearms Register and ensuring that the information available to frontline police remains accurate and reliable.

6.8 Continuing stakeholder engagement

77. The Committee welcomes the Government's decision to undertake consultation during the development of these reforms. Successful implementation of the National Firearms Register and associated administrative changes will benefit from ongoing engagement with:

- approved shooting clubs;
- firearms dealers;
- licensed collectors;
- primary producers;
- recognised sporting organisations; and
- recreational hunting organisations.

78. These organisations collectively possess significant practical experience in the operation of Tasmania's firearms legislation and are well placed to identify implementation issues before they become operational problems.

79. The Committee encourages Government to maintain this collaborative approach throughout implementation and future review of the legislation.

6.9 Committee Findings

Finding 4: The Executive Committee supports implementation of the National Firearms Register and recognises its potential to improve intelligence sharing, firearms tracing and law enforcement capability throughout Australia.

Finding 5: Administrative modernisation should improve both regulatory effectiveness and the experience of lawful licence holders by reducing unnecessary duplication and complexity.

Finding 6: Legislative effort directed towards firearm theft, unlawful trafficking and organised criminal activity is likely to deliver the greatest public safety benefit.

6.10 Recommendations

Recommendation 4: That Parliament support those provisions necessary to implement the National Firearms Register, subject to appropriate safeguards relating to privacy, cybersecurity and data integrity.

Recommendation 5: That administrative reforms associated with the National Firearms Register be implemented in a manner that simplifies compliance for lawful licence holders, approved shooting clubs and firearms dealers wherever practicable.

Recommendation 6: That Government continue to prioritise legislative and operational measures directed towards preventing firearm theft, unlawful trafficking and diversion into illicit markets as the most effective means of improving community safety.

7. Reclassification of Straight-Pull and Button/Lever-Release Centre-Fire Firearms

7.1 Introduction

80. The proposed reclassification of straight-pull and button- or lever-release centre-fire rifles and shotguns is one of the most significant substantive amendments contained within the Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026.

81. Unlike the administrative reforms considered in Chapter 6, this proposal would alter the legal status of a class of firearms that are currently lawfully possessed by licensed firearm owners throughout Tasmania. The consultation material indicates that implementation of the proposal would require affected firearms to be surrendered through a government-funded compensation or buyback scheme.

82. The Committee acknowledges the Government's objective of improving community safety. The issue before Parliament, however, is whether the proposed reclassification represents an appropriate, evidence-based and proportionate response to the identified public safety risk.

7.2 Relevant provisions

83. This chapter considers the clauses proposing the reclassification of straight-pull and button- or lever-release centre-fire firearms, together with the implementation arrangements described in the Government's consultation material.

84. Clauses:

- Clause 8 (Category A firearms licence)
- Clause 9 (Category B firearms licence)
- Clause 10 (Category C firearms licence)

7.3 Existing legislative framework

85. Tasmania's firearms classification system forms part of the nationally consistent framework established following the National Firearms Agreement.

86. The Committee recognises that Parliament may amend that framework where circumstances warrant legislative change. Firearms technology evolves over time, and legislative classifications may require periodic review to ensure they continue to reflect contemporary public safety considerations.

87. However, where Parliament proposes to reclassify firearms that have been lawfully owned under an established legislative framework, the Committee considers that the evidentiary basis for that decision should be clearly articulated.

7.4 The central policy question

88. The Committee considers that the central issue is not whether straight-pull or button- or lever-release firearms differ mechanically from conventional bolt-action firearms. Rather, the principal question before Parliament is whether the available evidence demonstrates that reclassification to Category C is likely to produce a measurable improvement in public safety. In the Committee's view, this question should guide consideration of the proposal.

89. The Committee has not identified evidence within the consultation material demonstrating that these firearms have been disproportionately represented in criminal offending, firearm theft, unlawful trafficking or other activities giving rise to the proposed amendments.

7.5 Evidentiary basis

90. The Committee has been unable to identify any evidence within the consultation material demonstrating that straight-pull or button- or lever-release firearms are being used in Tasmania in a manner that justifies their proposed reclassification. While the Committee recognises that some operational intelligence may be appropriately withheld, the consultation material does not identify the nature or extent of the public safety problem, nor explain why the existing legislative framework is no longer adequate.

91. Good regulatory practice generally favours the least restrictive measure capable of achieving the identified public safety objective. The consultation material does not explain why enhanced licensing conditions, storage requirements, compliance activity or other targeted regulatory responses would be insufficient before resorting to wholesale reclassification.

92. The Committee considers that Parliament may wish to examine:

- the nature of the public safety risk that has been identified;
- the evidence demonstrating that the current classification is no longer appropriate;
- why reclassification has been selected in preference to other regulatory options; and
- how the effectiveness of the proposal will be measured if enacted.

93. The firearms affected by the proposal have been lawfully owned under the existing legislative framework for many years. Their current classification reflects previous legislative and policy decisions reached following consideration of their mechanical operation and public safety implications. The Bill proposes to reverse those earlier decisions. The Committee therefore considers that Parliament should expect a correspondingly strong evidentiary basis demonstrating why the existing classification is no longer appropriate.

7.6 Mechanical design and demonstrated risk

94. The proposed amendments appear to proceed on the basis that the mechanical operation of straight-pull and button- or lever-release centre-fire firearms justifies their reclassification to Category C.

95. The Committee accepts that these firearms differ in their method of operation from conventional bolt-action firearms. However, the existence of a different operating mechanism does not, of itself, demonstrate a different level of public safety risk.

96. In the Committee's view, the central policy question is not whether these firearms operate differently, but whether their lawful ownership has resulted in demonstrably different public safety outcomes that justify a more restrictive legislative response.

97. The consultation material does not identify evidence demonstrating that these firearms have been disproportionately associated with criminal offending, firearm theft, unlawful trafficking or other forms of misuse when compared with other manually operated firearms currently lawfully possessed in Tasmania.

98. The Committee acknowledges that operational intelligence may not always be capable of public release. Nevertheless, where Parliament is asked to prohibit the continued lawful possession of a class of firearms and require their compulsory surrender, the Committee considers that the evidentiary threshold should be correspondingly high.

99. Without a clearly demonstrated relationship between the mechanical characteristics of these firearms and an identifiable increase in public safety risk, Parliament may reasonably question whether the proposed reclassification is directed at demonstrable risk or primarily at the design characteristics of the firearms themselves.

100. The Committee respectfully submits that legislation should be founded upon evidence of risk rather than assumptions arising from mechanical design or appearance. Where existing regulatory controls have not been shown to be ineffective, Parliament may wish to carefully consider whether less restrictive regulatory measures could achieve the intended public safety outcomes.

7.7 Alternative regulatory approaches

101. Reclassification is one of the most significant regulatory responses available to Parliament. It permanently removes a class of firearms from lawful civilian ownership. As such, it should ordinarily be reserved for circumstances in which less restrictive regulatory options have been shown to be inadequate.

102. Where a public safety risk has been identified, Parliament may also wish to consider whether alternative regulatory responses were evaluated during policy development. Depending upon the nature of the identified risk, these alternatives could include:

- enhanced licensing conditions;
- strengthened storage requirements;
- targeted compliance programs;

- intelligence-led enforcement;
- enhanced record keeping; or
- increased penalties for criminal misuse.

103. The Committee expresses no concluded view on the suitability of any alternative. Rather, it considers that Parliament should understand why the proposed approach has been preferred over other reasonably available regulatory options.

7.8 Impact on lawful owners

104. The proposal would affect persons who lawfully acquired these firearms under the existing legislative framework. Those licence holders acquired their firearms lawfully, satisfied the applicable licensing requirements, complied with registration obligations and have continued to possess those firearms in accordance with the law.

105. Where Parliament proposes to alter the legal status of lawfully acquired property, the Committee considers that the reasons for doing so should be clearly explained and supported by evidence demonstrating that the anticipated public safety benefits justify the proposed restriction.

7.9 Compensation and implementation

106. The consultation material indicates that implementation of the proposed reclassification will require a compensation or buyback scheme. The Committee welcomes the Government's acknowledgement that affected licence holders should not bear the financial consequences of legislative changes affecting firearms that were lawfully acquired.

107. The proposed compensation scheme recognises that affected licence holders acquired these firearms lawfully and in reliance upon the existing legislative framework. While compensation is appropriate where Parliament alters the legal status of lawfully acquired property, the need for such a scheme also underscores the significance of the proposed intervention and reinforces the importance of ensuring that the evidentiary basis for the reform is clearly established.

108. Should Parliament proceed with the proposal, the Committee considers that any compensation scheme should be:

- transparent;
- independently administered;
- based upon fair market value;
- consistently applied; and
- implemented within reasonable timeframes.

109. The Committee also encourages Government to consult with affected licence holders, firearms dealers and recognised sporting organisations during development of the implementation arrangements.

7.10 Sporting and community impacts

110. The Committee considers that Parliament should also examine the broader practical consequences of the proposed reclassification. These may include impacts upon:

- recognised sporting disciplines;
- approved shooting clubs;
- regional communities;
- firearms dealers;
- associated businesses; and
- volunteer-run sporting organisations.

111. Consideration of these impacts does not diminish the importance of community safety. Rather, it assists Parliament in assessing whether the proposed response is proportionate to the identified public safety objective.

7.11 Committee Findings

Finding 7: The proposed reclassification would remove from lawful civilian ownership a class of firearms that has previously been considered suitable for licensing under Tasmania's firearms legislation. Such a significant departure from the existing legislative framework warrants a clear and compelling evidentiary justification.

Finding 8: The consultation material does not publicly demonstrate why existing regulatory controls are inadequate or why reclassification represents the most appropriate regulatory response.

Finding 9: The Committee has not identified evidence within the consultation material demonstrating that the mechanical characteristics of straight-pull and button- or lever-release centre-fire firearms have resulted in a level of public safety risk that distinguishes them from other manually operated firearms lawfully owned under the existing legislative framework.

Finding 10: The proposed amendments would have significant consequences for lawful firearm owners, recognised sporting disciplines and associated businesses, and those consequences should be fully assessed alongside the anticipated public safety benefits.

7.12 Recommendations

Recommendation 7: That Parliament satisfy itself that the evidentiary basis supporting the proposed reclassification has been clearly established and that the anticipated public safety benefits justify the proposed amendments.

Recommendation 8: That, before proceeding with the proposed reclassification, Parliament satisfy itself that there is clear evidence demonstrating that the affected

firearms present a materially greater public safety risk than other manually operated firearms currently lawfully possessed in Tasmania, and that reclassification represents the least restrictive regulatory measure capable of achieving the Government's stated public safety objectives.

Recommendation 9: Should Parliament proceed with the proposed reclassification, any compensation scheme should provide fair market compensation, be independently administered and be developed following consultation with affected stakeholders.

8. Licensed Firearm Collectors

8.1 Introduction

112. Although the Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026 does not directly amend the statutory framework governing collector licences, several of the proposed general amendments will have significant practical consequences for licensed firearm collectors.

113. Collectors occupy a unique position within Tasmania's firearms regulatory framework. Firearms are acquired and retained primarily for their historical, technological, military, policing or cultural significance rather than for routine sporting, recreational or occupational use.

114. Because of these distinctive characteristics, the Committee considers it appropriate to examine the cumulative effect of the proposed amendments upon licensed collectors and the preservation of historically significant firearm collections.

8.2 Relevant provisions

115. This chapter considers the practical consequences for licensed collectors arising from the general amendments contained within the Bill, including:

- Clauses 14–17 (citizenship and residency);
- Clause 19 (storage notification);
- Clause 28 (inspection powers); and
- Clause 29 (National Firearms Register).

116. While these amendments apply generally to all licence holders, their cumulative effect may be particularly significant for licensed collectors because of the distinctive nature of collecting activities and the long-term management of historically significant collections.

8.3 The purpose of collector licensing

117. Collector licensing differs fundamentally from other categories of firearm ownership.

118. Collectors generally acquire firearms because of their:

- historical significance;
- military or policing heritage;
- technological development;
- rarity;
- cultural importance; or
- association with significant events or periods of history.

119. Unlike firearms acquired for hunting or sporting competition, collector firearms are ordinarily preserved because of their historical or heritage value rather than their practical use.

120. The Committee considers that this distinction is important when assessing proposals affecting collector licensing.

8.4 Existing regulatory framework

121. Licensed collectors already operate within one of the more highly regulated components of Tasmania's firearms licensing system.

122. Collector licence holders are subject to statutory requirements including:

- licensing as a fit and proper person;
- registration of firearms;
- secure storage requirements;
- inspection powers;
- licence conditions specific to collecting activities; and
- ongoing regulatory oversight by Tasmania Police.

123. The Committee considers that these existing safeguards provide a substantial level of regulatory control while recognising the legitimate preservation of historically significant firearms.

8.5 Public heritage and historical value

124. The Committee considers that licensed firearm collections contribute to preserving an important aspect of Tasmania's history. Collections frequently include firearms associated with:

- military service;
- policing;
- agriculture;
- forestry;
- hunting;
- target shooting; and
- the technological development of firearms over time.

125. Many of these firearms represent artefacts that document the State's social and industrial history.

126. The Committee considers that, in this respect, private collectors perform a complementary role to museums, historical societies and other cultural institutions by preserving items that might otherwise be lost, destroyed or dispersed.

127. The Committee notes that many public museums have limited acquisition budgets and finite storage capacity. Historically, private collectors have played an important complementary role by preserving firearms and associated historical material that may ultimately be donated, loaned or otherwise made available to museums, historical societies and researchers. The Committee considers that this contribution forms part of Tasmania's

broader cultural heritage and should be recognised when assessing legislative proposals affecting collector licensing.

128. The Committee also notes that historically significant firearm collections frequently preserve important contextual information, including provenance, military service, police use, manufacturing history and technological development. The historical value of many collections lies not only in individual firearms but also in the integrity of the collection. Regulatory measures that discourage the continued preservation of established collections may therefore have broader consequences for Tasmania's documentary and material heritage.

8.6 Preservation of Tasmania's firearms heritage

129. The Committee considers that the contribution made by licensed firearm collectors extends beyond private ownership and should properly be regarded as a form of heritage preservation.

130. Many privately held collections document significant aspects of Tasmania's and Australia's history, including military service, policing, agriculture, forestry, sporting competition and the evolution of firearms technology. In many cases these collections have been assembled over decades through considerable personal investment, research and conservation.

131. Unlike ordinary consumer goods, historically significant firearms often derive much of their value from their provenance, originality and association with historical events, organisations or individuals. Once dispersed or destroyed, these collections cannot readily be recreated.

132. The Committee notes that many historically significant firearms preserved in private collections are rarely represented within public museums or institutional collections. Licensed collectors therefore perform an important complementary role in preserving material culture that might otherwise be lost to future generations.

133. Accordingly, the Committee considers that proposals affecting collector licensing should recognise not only the public safety objectives of the legislation but also the broader public interest in preserving Tasmania's historical heritage.

8.7 Existing regulatory controls

134. The Committee notes that licensed firearm collectors already operate within one of the most tightly regulated categories of firearms ownership under the Firearms Act 1996. Collectors are required to satisfy the same fit and proper person requirements as other licence holders and remain subject to comprehensive obligations relating to licensing, registration, secure storage, inspection and ongoing regulatory oversight.

135. The Committee has not identified evidence within the consultation material demonstrating that these existing safeguards have proven ineffective or that licensed collectors represent a disproportionate source of firearms entering the illicit market.

136. Where additional restrictions are proposed, the Committee considers that Parliament should be satisfied that the existing regulatory framework is insufficient to address an identified public safety concern before imposing further limitations upon lawful collectors.

8.8 Storage notification requirements

137. Although the proposed notification requirements apply generally to all firearms licence holders, they may have implications for licensed collectors.

138. Clause 19 requires licence holders to notify the Commissioner if firearms are to be stored at an address other than the licensee's residential address for more than 24 hours. Clause 29 further provides for nominated storage locations to be recorded on the Firearms Register. These amendments are intended to improve the accuracy of regulatory information and support implementation of the National Firearms Register.

139. The Committee supports the objective of maintaining accurate information regarding the location of registered firearms. Nevertheless, Parliament may wish to consider the practical operation of these provisions for collectors whose firearms may legitimately be stored at multiple approved locations, temporarily transferred for conservation or restoration, exhibited by museums or historical organisations, or secured at alternative approved premises.

140. Many established collections have developed over decades and may comprise firearms requiring different storage arrangements according to their historical significance, conservation requirements or security considerations. The Committee considers that implementation of the notification requirements should therefore remain sufficiently flexible to accommodate these legitimate circumstances without imposing unnecessary administrative burden while continuing to achieve the intended regulatory objective.

8.9 Inspection powers

141. The Committee recognises that inspection powers are an established feature of collector licensing and supports their continued role in maintaining public confidence in the firearms regulatory framework.

142. The Committee nevertheless notes that inspections of extensive collections may involve practical considerations different from inspections of ordinary sporting firearms. Large collections may comprise numerous historically significant firearms, ancillary artefacts and specialised storage arrangements developed over many years.

143. Administrative guidance describing the practical operation of inspection powers in these circumstances would assist both licence holders and Tasmania Police while promoting consistent and efficient administration.

8.10 Public safety considerations

144. The Committee accepts that public safety remains the paramount consideration in firearms legislation.

145. Where amendments affecting collectors are proposed, Parliament may nevertheless wish to consider:

- the nature of the public safety risk that has been identified;
- whether the existing collector licensing framework is inadequate;
- the evidence supporting the proposed amendments; and
- whether less restrictive alternatives have been considered.

146. These questions are consistent with the analytical framework set out in Chapter 3 and assist Parliament in assessing whether the proposed measures are necessary and proportionate.

8.11 Practical consequences

147. The Committee considers that the practical consequences of the proposed amendments extend well beyond administrative inconvenience. For many collectors, their collections represent decades of careful acquisition, research and financial investment. Individual collections frequently contain historically significant firearms assembled over many years and curated according to recognised collecting themes.

148. Additional restrictions that limit future acquisitions, require disposal of existing firearms or create uncertainty regarding the continued operation of collector licences may discourage ongoing preservation of historically significant firearms within Tasmania.

149. The Committee is also concerned that unnecessary restrictions may encourage historically significant collections to be dispersed interstate or overseas, reducing Tasmania's capacity to preserve important aspects of its own military, policing, agricultural and sporting history.

150. These outcomes would not readily be reversed and should therefore be carefully considered when assessing the proportionality of the proposed amendments.

8.12 Proportionality

151. The Committee considers that any additional regulation affecting collectors should remain proportionate to the identified public safety risk.

152. Because collector firearms are ordinarily retained for preservation rather than routine use, Parliament may wish to consider whether regulatory measures should appropriately distinguish collector activities from other forms of lawful firearm ownership.

153. Maintaining that distinction may assist in ensuring that legislative measures remain appropriately targeted while continuing to support the preservation of historically significant collections.

8.13 Committee observation

154. The Committee respectfully submits that the cumulative effect of several individually modest administrative amendments may be greater for licensed collectors than for many

other categories of licence holder because of the scale, complexity and historical significance of many established collections.

8.14 Committee Findings

Finding 11: Licensed firearm collectors perform an important role in preserving Tasmania's military, policing, agricultural, sporting and technological heritage through the lawful acquisition, conservation and documentation of historically significant firearms.

Finding 12: Licensed collectors already operate within a comprehensive regulatory framework that includes licensing, registration, secure storage, inspection powers and ongoing oversight by Tasmania Police.

Finding 13: The Committee has not identified evidence within the consultation material demonstrating that the existing regulatory framework governing licensed firearm collectors is inadequate, or that collectors represent a level of public safety risk requiring additional regulation beyond that already provided by the Firearms Act 1996.

Finding 14: The proposed storage notification requirements may have disproportionate practical consequences for licensed collectors and other licence holders who lawfully maintain firearms at multiple approved storage locations.

8.15 Recommendations

Recommendation 10: That Parliament recognise the distinct purpose of licensed firearm collecting when considering amendments affecting collector licences.

Recommendation 11: That any amendments affecting collectors preserve appropriate opportunities for the lawful acquisition, preservation and display of historically significant firearms, consistent with public safety objectives.

Recommendation 12: That Parliament ensure any additional regulatory requirements applying to collectors are proportionate to the identified public safety risk and supported by objective evidence.

Recommendation 13: That administrative guidance accompanying the new storage notification requirements include practical examples illustrating how the provisions are intended to operate where firearms are lawfully stored at multiple approved locations or temporarily transferred for conservation, repair or exhibition.

9. Citizenship and Residency Requirements

9.1 Introduction

155. The Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026 proposes the introduction of citizenship and residency requirements as part of the eligibility framework for firearms licensing in Tasmania.

156. The Executive Committee recognises that firearms licensing should operate within a framework that enables applicants to be appropriately identified, assessed and regulated. Ensuring that licence holders have an ongoing and verifiable connection with Tasmania is a legitimate regulatory objective and is consistent with maintaining public confidence in the firearms licensing system.

157. The proposed amendments represent a substantive change to the existing eligibility framework and therefore warrant consideration of both their intended public safety outcomes and their practical operation.

9.2 Relevant provisions

158. This chapter examines clauses 14–17, which introduce citizenship and residency requirements for firearms licence applications and renewals, together with the Commissioner's exemption powers.

9.3 Policy objective

159. The Committee understands the proposed amendments to be directed towards ensuring that firearms licences are generally issued to persons with an established legal connection to Australia and Tasmania.

160. A licensing framework based upon clear and verifiable residency assists in the effective administration of the firearms licensing system and supports the operation of the National Firearms Register.

161. The Committee recognises the Government's objective of ensuring that firearms licences are generally held by persons with an ongoing and verifiable connection to Australia and Tasmania. The Committee accepts that this is a legitimate regulatory objective. The question for Parliament is whether the proposed citizenship and residency requirements represent the most appropriate means of achieving that objective.

9.4 Relationship between citizenship and public safety

162. The Committee notes that citizenship is one of several criteria proposed to determine eligibility for a firearms licence.

163. The existing licensing framework already requires applicants to satisfy a range of suitability requirements, including demonstrating a genuine reason for possessing a firearm,

completing approved safety training and satisfying the Commissioner that they are a fit and proper person to hold a firearms licence.

164. The proposed citizenship requirement therefore operates as an additional threshold rather than replacing the existing assessment of an applicant's suitability.

165. The Committee considers that the relationship between citizenship and the intended public safety outcome should be clearly articulated, particularly where the proposal affects applicants who may otherwise satisfy all existing licensing requirements.

9.5 Practical operation

166. The practical operation of the proposed amendments is likely to depend upon the exercise of the Commissioner's discretion to grant exemptions where appropriate.

167. This discretion appears intended to accommodate circumstances in which strict application of the eligibility requirements would produce unintended or unreasonable outcomes.

168. The Committee considers that the effectiveness of this approach will depend upon the availability of clear administrative guidance describing:

- the circumstances in which an exemption may be considered;
- the information applicants should provide in support of an application;
- the matters likely to be considered by the Commissioner; and
- the review mechanisms available where an exemption is refused.

169. Providing this information would assist applicants while also promoting consistency and transparency in decision-making.

9.6 Commissioner's discretion

170. The proposed amendments confer several discretionary powers upon the Commissioner in relation to the administration of firearms licensing. Clauses 14 to 17 enable the Commissioner, in certain circumstances, to exempt applicants from the proposed citizenship and residency requirements or to determine that it is reasonable for those requirements not to apply when considering applications for the grant or renewal of a firearms licence.

171. The Executive Committee recognises that discretionary powers are an established and necessary feature of modern regulatory legislation. It would neither be practical nor desirable for legislation to prescribe every circumstance in which a licensing decision may be required. Properly exercised discretion allows decision-makers to respond to exceptional circumstances and avoid unintended or unreasonable outcomes.

172. The effectiveness of discretionary powers, however, depends upon their consistent and transparent administration. Where legislation relies upon concepts such as "reasonable in the circumstances", licence holders should be able to understand the factors that are likely to be considered when decisions are made. Clear administrative guidance assists

applicants to understand the information they should provide, promotes consistency in decision-making and reduces the risk of differing outcomes arising from similar factual circumstances.

173. The Committee notes that the Bill also provides that a previous decision to grant an exemption does not require the Commissioner to reach the same conclusion on a subsequent application. While the Committee acknowledges that changing circumstances may properly justify different decisions, it considers that this reinforces the importance of published decision-making criteria and clear administrative guidance to ensure that discretionary powers are exercised consistently over time.

174. The Committee respectfully submits that transparent administrative guidance would complement the legislative framework by promoting consistency, accountability and public confidence while preserving the flexibility necessary for the Commissioner to deal with individual cases on their merits.

9.7 Existing licence holders

175. The proposed amendments also apply to the renewal of existing firearms licences.

176. The Committee recognises that this may affect persons who have lawfully held firearms licences for many years and who have complied with all existing legislative requirements.

177. Where legislative changes affect the continuing eligibility of existing licence holders, appropriate transition arrangements assist in maintaining confidence in the regulatory framework.

178. Such arrangements may include sufficient time for affected persons to understand the new requirements, seek any necessary approvals or exemptions, and make informed decisions regarding their ongoing eligibility.

9.8 Implementation considerations

179. The Committee considers that successful implementation will depend upon clear communication with affected licence holders before the amendments commence.

180. Information provided to the community should clearly explain:

- the new eligibility requirements;
- who may be affected;
- how exemption applications may be made;
- the evidence required to support those applications; and
- the review options available.

181. Early communication is likely to reduce uncertainty, improve administrative efficiency and encourage voluntary compliance.

9.9 Committee Findings

Finding 15: The proposed citizenship and residency requirements represent a significant change to the firearms licensing eligibility framework and warrant careful consideration of their practical operation.

Finding 16: Ensuring that licence holders have an identifiable and ongoing connection with Tasmania is a legitimate regulatory objective.

Finding 17: The effectiveness of the proposed amendments will depend substantially upon transparent exemption processes, clear administrative guidance and appropriate implementation arrangements.

Finding 18: The practical operation of the proposed citizenship and residency requirements will depend not only upon the statutory provisions themselves but also upon the consistent and transparent exercise of the Commissioner's discretionary powers.

9.10 Recommendations

Recommendation 14: That the Government publish comprehensive guidance explaining the operation of the proposed citizenship and residency requirements before commencement of the legislation.

Recommendation 15: That clear administrative guidance be developed describing the operation of the Commissioner's exemption powers, including the factors likely to be considered in determining applications.

Recommendation 16: That implementation arrangements provide existing licence holders with sufficient time and information to understand the new requirements and, where necessary, seek an exemption before their next licence renewal.

Recommendation 17: That Tasmania Police publish administrative guidance describing the factors that may be considered when exercising the Commissioner's discretionary powers under clauses 14 to 17, including illustrative examples where appropriate, to promote consistency, transparency and public confidence in the firearms licensing system.

10. Administrative Amendments and Regulatory Burden

10.1 Introduction

182. The Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026 contains several administrative amendments intended to modernise Tasmania's firearms regulatory framework, improve national consistency and facilitate implementation of the National Firearms Register.

183. The Executive Committee supports the objective of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of firearms administration. Well-designed administrative systems benefit both law enforcement agencies and lawful licence holders by improving record accuracy, supporting regulatory oversight and making compliance more straightforward.

184. The Committee respectfully submits, however, that administrative reform should be assessed not only by its capacity to improve regulatory oversight, but also by whether it remains practical, proportionate and capable of being readily complied with by those subject to the legislation.

10.2 Relevant provisions

185. This chapter examines the administrative amendments relating to notification requirements, electronic administration, temporary storage requirements and other measures intended to modernise the firearms licensing system. Clauses:

- Clause 19 (General conditions of licence)
- Clause 29 (Register of firearms)

10.3 Principles of good administration

186. The Committee considers that effective regulatory systems should:

- be simple to understand;
- minimise unnecessary administrative burden;
- encourage voluntary compliance;
- provide certainty regarding legal obligations;
- support efficient administration by Tasmania Police; and
- avoid unnecessary duplication.

187. Administrative requirements are most effective when they encourage compliance through clarity and practicality rather than increasing complexity.

188. Accordingly, the Committee considers that Parliament should assess each proposed administrative amendment against these principles.

10.4 Notification requirements

189. The Bill proposes earlier notification of certain matters affecting licence holders, including changes of residential address and the storage of firearms at locations other than the registered residential address for periods exceeding 24 hours.

190. The Committee understands the importance of Tasmania Police maintaining accurate and current records.

191. However, Parliament may wish to consider whether the proposed notification timeframes are sufficiently flexible to accommodate circumstances in which prior notification is genuinely impracticable.

192. Examples include:

- emergency family circumstances;
- unexpected employment requirements;
- natural disasters or other emergencies;
- urgent repairs to approved storage facilities; and
- unplanned travel.

193. The Committee respectfully submits that legislation should recognise that exceptional circumstances occasionally arise without undermining the broader objective of maintaining accurate regulatory information.

10.5 Temporary storage requirements

194. The proposed notification requirement for firearms stored away from the registered residential address for more than 24 hours raises practical issues that may arise during ordinary lawful firearms use.

195. Examples include:

- interstate competitions;
- hunting trips;
- attendance at approved shooting events;
- temporary storage while travelling;
- repairs to storage facilities; and
- temporary safekeeping by another authorised person.

196. The Committee supports the objective of maintaining accurate information regarding firearm locations.

197. However, Parliament may wish to consider whether the proposed notification requirement represents the least administratively burdensome means of achieving that objective.

198. The Committee also notes that these requirements may have implications for licensed firearm collectors, who frequently maintain historically significant collections across more than one approved storage location. These issues are discussed further in Chapter 6.

10.6 Inspection of firearms

199. Clause 28 of the Bill inserts proposed section 82A into the Firearms Act 1996, requiring a person in possession of a firearm to produce that firearm for inspection, at any

reasonable time, when requested to do so by a police officer. The Executive Committee recognises that inspection powers are an important component of effective firearms regulation and assist Tasmania Police in verifying compliance with licensing and registration requirements.

200. The Committee nevertheless considers that the practical operation of this provision would benefit from further administrative guidance. Parliament may wish to consider whether additional information should be provided regarding the circumstances in which inspections are expected to occur, the meaning of "reasonable time", whether advance notice will ordinarily be provided, and the practical arrangements for inspecting larger collections or firearms stored across multiple approved locations.

201. The Committee does not suggest that these matters need necessarily be prescribed in legislation. However, clear operational guidance would assist licence holders to understand their obligations while promoting consistent administration by Tasmania Police. The Committee considers that transparency regarding the exercise of inspection powers is likely to improve voluntary compliance and maintain confidence in the regulatory framework.

10.7 Electronic licence verification

202. The Committee welcomes the proposal allowing persons temporarily lending firearms to verify the validity of another person's firearms licence through an approved electronic verification system. This represents an example of technology improving both public safety and regulatory compliance.

203. The Committee particularly supports the proposal that the system confirm licence validity without disclosing unnecessary personal information.

204. The Committee considers this an appropriate balance between regulatory oversight, privacy and practical administration.

10.8 Electronic dealer records

205. The Committee also supports amendments permitting firearms dealers to maintain records electronically in preparation for implementation of the National Firearms Register.

206. Modern electronic systems have the potential to:

- improve accuracy;
- reduce duplication;
- strengthen audit capability;
- facilitate regulatory oversight; and
- improve service delivery.

207. The Committee encourages Government to ensure that these systems are secure, reliable and developed in consultation with firearms dealers and other end users.

208.

10.9 Impact on volunteer organisations

209. The Committee submits that Parliament should recognise the substantial contribution made by volunteers in administering approved shooting clubs throughout Tasmania.

210. Many clubs operate almost entirely through volunteer effort. Additional administrative obligations frequently fall upon a relatively small number of committee members and volunteers who already undertake governance, maintenance, competition management, range supervision and firearms safety responsibilities. While individual reporting obligations may appear modest in isolation, their cumulative effect may create significant additional workload for volunteer organisations.

211. The Committee therefore encourages Parliament to consider the practical implications of new administrative requirements upon volunteer-run clubs during implementation of the Bill.

10.10 Cumulative regulatory burden

212. The Committee considers that Parliament should assess not only the impact of individual amendments, but also their cumulative effect. Incremental administrative changes can, over time, create substantial additional obligations for:

- lawful licence holders;
- approved shooting clubs;
- firearms dealers;
- collectors; and
- primary producers.

213. Good regulation should remain understandable, practical and proportionate.

214. The Committee submits that consideration of cumulative regulatory burden is an important component of good legislative design and assists in maintaining high levels of voluntary compliance.

10.11 Committee Findings

Finding 19: Administrative reform is an important component of effective firearms regulation and should improve both regulatory efficiency and voluntary compliance.
Finding 20: Administrative obligations should remain practical, proportionate and capable of being readily complied with by lawful licence holders.
Finding 21: Parliament should consider the cumulative effect of multiple administrative amendments, particularly upon volunteer-run approved shooting clubs and other organisations that play an important role in Tasmania's firearms regulatory framework.

Finding 22: the effectiveness of the proposed inspection powers will depend upon clear administrative guidance describing the practical operation of proposed section 82A.

10.12 Recommendations

Recommendation 18: That Parliament ensure all new administrative obligations are supported by practical guidance, modern electronic systems and implementation arrangements that facilitate compliance.

Recommendation 19: That reasonable flexibility be maintained where strict compliance with notification timeframes is impracticable due to unforeseen or emergency circumstances.

Recommendation 20: That Government continue consultation with approved shooting clubs, firearms dealers and other stakeholders following implementation to identify opportunities for simplification, continuous improvement and reduction of unnecessary administrative burden.

Recommendation 21: That Tasmania Police publish administrative guidance describing the practical operation of proposed section 82A, including the circumstances in which inspections may occur, and the expectations placed upon licence holders.

11. Lending and Borrowing of Firearms

11.1 Introduction

215. The Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026 proposes significant amendments governing the temporary lending and borrowing of firearms between licensed persons. The stated objective of these amendments is to strengthen accountability by clarifying the responsibilities of both lenders and borrowers and reducing opportunities for firearms to be transferred outside the regulatory framework.

216. The Executive Committee supports measures that improve accountability and assist in preventing firearms from being accessed by persons who are not lawfully entitled to possess them. Temporary transfers of firearms should occur within a framework that promotes public safety and enables Tasmania Police to effectively regulate lawful possession.

217. At the same time, the proposed amendments regulate activities that routinely occur between otherwise compliant licence holders. Temporary lending has long formed part of lawful firearms ownership in Tasmania and commonly occurs during organised sporting competitions, supervised club activities, hunting, firearms familiarisation, coaching, sighting-in of firearms and the temporary replacement of firearms that have become unserviceable.

218. Accordingly, the principal issue before Parliament is not whether temporary lending should continue to be permitted. Rather, it is whether the obligations imposed upon licence holders are expressed with sufficient clarity to enable ordinary, responsible firearm owners to confidently understand the steps they must take before temporarily lending a firearm.

11.2 Relevant provisions

219. This chapter examines the amendments contained in Clause 40 of the Bill, which inserts proposed section 121A into the Firearms Act 1996. The proposed section establishes new responsibilities for persons lending firearms, introduces electronic licence verification and creates offences where specified conditions are not satisfied before a firearm is temporarily transferred.

11.3 Existing regulatory framework

220. Temporary lending is already subject to significant regulation under Tasmania's firearms legislation. Firearms may only be lent to persons authorised to possess the relevant category of firearm, and both parties remain subject to existing obligations relating to registration, safe handling, transport and secure storage.

221. In practice, temporary lending generally occurs between licensed firearm owners whose identities are known to one another and frequently within highly regulated environments such as approved shooting ranges operating under the supervision of qualified Range Officers.

222. The Committee considers that this existing framework already provides a substantial level of accountability while facilitating legitimate sporting, recreational and occupational activities.

11.4 Electronic licence verification

223. One of the most significant practical improvements contained within the Bill is the introduction of an electronic licence verification system enabling a lender to confirm that a prospective borrower holds a current and appropriate firearms licence.

224. The Committee strongly supports this proposal. It represents an example of technology improving both public safety and regulatory compliance while reducing the likelihood that firearms may inadvertently be lent to persons whose licences have expired, been suspended or otherwise no longer authorise possession of the relevant firearm.

225. Importantly, licence verification is capable of objective confirmation. The lender can determine, through an approved electronic system, whether the borrower is authorised to possess the firearm before any transfer occurs.

226. The Committee considers this proposal strikes an appropriate balance between public safety, privacy and practical administration.

11.5 Reasonable enquiries by the lender

227. The proposed amendments extend the responsibilities of a lender beyond verification of the borrower's licence. Proposed section 121A requires a lender to be satisfied not only that the borrower is appropriately licensed, but also that the borrower has the means to comply with the secure storage requirements of the Act and intends to comply with those requirements.

228. The Committee supports the objective of ensuring that firearms are only lent to persons capable of storing them securely. However, Parliament may wish to consider whether these obligations are expressed with sufficient certainty to enable ordinary licence holders to understand the extent of the enquiries expected of them.

229. Unlike licence verification, which may be objectively confirmed through an approved electronic system, the concepts of a person's "means", and "intention" necessarily involve matters that may not always be capable of independent verification by the lender. Without further administrative guidance, different licence holders may reasonably reach different conclusions regarding the enquiries necessary before temporarily lending a firearm.

230. The Committee respectfully submits that legislation creating criminal liability should, wherever practicable, impose obligations that are capable of objective understanding and practical compliance.

11.6 Practical operation of the proposed amendments

231. Temporary lending commonly occurs during routine activities undertaken by lawful firearm owners.

232. Examples include:

- participation in organised competitions;
- supervised club training;
- coaching new participants;
- sighting-in a firearm before hunting;
- testing another person's firearm;
- temporary replacement of a firearm that has become unserviceable; and
- supervised hunting activities involving family members or fellow licence holders.

233. These activities frequently occur within structured environments where participants are already subject to comprehensive safety procedures and regulatory oversight.

234. The Committee considers that implementation of the proposed amendments should recognise these differing operational contexts. Guidance accompanying the legislation should assist licence holders to understand the reasonable enquiries expected before temporarily lending a firearm in both supervised and private settings.

11.7 Criminal liability and legal certainty

235. The proposed amendments create criminal offences attracting significant penalties where the statutory conditions for temporary lending are not satisfied. The Committee recognises that offences play an important role in ensuring compliance with firearms legislation.

236. Nevertheless, where legislation regulates routine conduct undertaken by otherwise compliant licence holders, the legal obligations imposed should be capable of objective understanding and practical compliance.

237. The Committee considers that Parliament should seek to minimise the risk that responsible licence holders inadvertently commit offences because the practical scope of their obligations is uncertain rather than because they have acted irresponsibly or contrary to the public safety objectives of the legislation.

238. Clear statutory language, supported by practical administrative guidance, is likely to promote higher levels of voluntary compliance while reducing unnecessary uncertainty for licence holders.

11.8 On-lending

239. The Committee supports the proposed prohibition on borrowers lending temporarily borrowed firearms to third parties. Restricting possession to the individual originally authorised by the lender strengthens accountability and assists in maintaining a clear chain of responsibility throughout the period of temporary possession.

240. The Committee nevertheless considers that public education regarding this new prohibition will be important, particularly for licence holders accustomed to informal lending

arrangements between family members or fellow sporting shooters. Clear communication prior to commencement will assist in promoting understanding and compliance.

11.9 Implementation and education

241. The Committee considers that the success of the proposed amendments will depend not only upon the legislative provisions themselves but also upon the quality of the administrative guidance accompanying their implementation.

242. Practical guidance should explain:

- the operation of electronic licence verification;
- the reasonable enquiries expected of lenders;
- the extent to which lenders may rely upon information provided by borrowers;
- the operation of the prohibition on on-lending;
- practical examples illustrating compliant lending arrangements in common circumstances; and
- the responsibilities of both lenders and borrowers throughout the period of temporary possession.

243. Providing practical examples would assist licence holders in understanding their obligations and promote consistent administration throughout Tasmania.

11.10 Committee Findings

Finding 23: Temporary lending of firearms is an established and legitimate component of Tasmania's firearms regulatory framework when undertaken between appropriately licensed persons in accordance with legislative requirements.
Finding 24: The proposed electronic licence verification system appears capable of strengthening regulatory compliance while reducing the likelihood of firearms being transferred to persons who are not authorised to possess them.
Finding 25: The effectiveness of the proposed lending provisions will depend upon licence holders being able to clearly understand the reasonable enquiries expected before temporarily lending a firearm.
Finding 26: Administrative guidance accompanying the proposed amendments is likely to improve voluntary compliance, promote consistent decision-making by licence holders and reduce the risk of inadvertent non-compliance.

11.11 Recommendations

Recommendation 22: That Parliament support the introduction of an electronic licence verification system, if it is reliable, accessible and protects personal information appropriately.

Recommendation 23: That Tasmania Police publish comprehensive guidance explaining the operation of proposed section 121A before commencement of the legislation, including the reasonable enquiries expected of lenders and borrowers in common practical situations.

Recommendation 24: That the guidance include practical examples illustrating compliant temporary lending arrangements during organised competitions, approved club activities, hunting, coaching and other common lawful circumstances.

Recommendation 25: That the operation of the new lending provisions be reviewed following implementation to assess whether they have improved regulatory compliance while remaining capable of practical and objective application by ordinary licence holders.

12. The Role of Approved Shooting Clubs in Tasmania's Firearms Regulatory Framework

12.1 10.1 Introduction

244. The Firearms Act 1996 (Tas) establishes a comprehensive framework governing the lawful possession and use of firearms. That framework extends beyond licensing, registration and enforcement. It also relies upon approved shooting clubs to provide structured environments in which firearm owners develop practical competency, reinforce safe firearms handling and participate in recognised shooting disciplines.

245. Approved shooting clubs therefore perform functions that complement the statutory framework. Through supervised participation, education and ongoing engagement with members, clubs contribute to the objectives of the Act by promoting responsible firearm ownership and encouraging compliance with legislative requirements.

246. The Committee considers that this contribution forms an important, although often less visible, element of Tasmania's firearms regulatory system.

12.2 Relevant provisions

247. Although no single provision of the Bill is directed exclusively to approved shooting clubs, several proposed amendments will affect the operation of approved clubs and the volunteers who administer them. This chapter considers those cumulative impacts.

12.3 Firearms safety through continuing education

248. Firearms safety education does not conclude when a licence is first issued.

249. For many licence holders, approved shooting clubs provide the principal environment in which knowledge acquired during initial licensing is reinforced through regular participation.

250. This continuing education occurs through:

- structured range briefings;
- supervised shooting activities;
- coaching and skills development;
- reinforcement of legislative obligations;
- discussion of safe storage and transport requirements; and
- practical application of range procedures.

251. Unlike one-off training courses, these activities occur repeatedly throughout a person's participation in the shooting sports. The Committee considers that this ongoing reinforcement contributes to the maintenance of safe firearms handling practices over time.

12.4 Supervision and risk management

252. Approved shooting clubs operate within structured environments governed by range approvals, documented operating procedures and the supervision of qualified Range Officers.

253. These arrangements provide multiple layers of risk management, including:

- controlled access to shooting areas;
- supervision of firearm handling;
- standardised range commands;
- management of cease-fire procedures;
- oversight of new participants; and
- immediate correction of unsafe practices where necessary.

254. The Committee considers that these operational controls reduce risk while supporting consistent standards across organised shooting activities.

12.5 Mentoring and community standards

255. An important characteristic of organised shooting is the informal transfer of knowledge between experienced and newer participants.

256. Within approved clubs, mentoring commonly includes:

- demonstration of safe handling techniques;
- explanation of legislative obligations;
- guidance regarding secure storage;
- encouragement of ethical hunting practices;
- familiarisation with competition rules; and
- reinforcement of responsible attitudes towards firearm ownership.

257. This form of peer learning contributes to the development of community expectations regarding safe and lawful conduct. While difficult to quantify, it represents an important mechanism through which responsible behaviours are encouraged and maintained.

12.6 Volunteer contribution

258. The operation of most approved shooting clubs depends upon volunteers.

259. Committee members, Range Officers, coaches and other volunteers undertake responsibilities including governance, administration, range maintenance, event management, safety supervision and member education.

260. The Club itself reflects this model, relying upon approximately ten volunteers to support regular organised shooting activities and maintain the safe operation of its approved range.

261. The continued effectiveness of approved clubs is therefore closely linked to the capacity of volunteers to discharge these responsibilities. Administrative reforms that increase volunteer workload may have implications extending beyond club governance to the delivery of organised shooting activities.

12.7 Sporting, community and regional contributions

262. Approved shooting clubs contribute to Tasmania in ways that extend beyond the administration of firearms legislation.

263. They support recognised sporting competitions, provide opportunities for recreational participation, encourage volunteerism and contribute to regional communities through events and associated economic activity.

264. The Huon Combined Shooting Club has recently assisted in hosting the SSAA Tasmania Shotgun Championships, illustrating the capacity of volunteer-run organisations to deliver major events while maintaining appropriate standards of safety and organisation.

265. These broader contributions are not the primary purpose of firearms regulation, but they are relevant when considering the practical effects of legislative change upon organisations that operate within the regulated framework.

12.8 Government–community Partnership

266. The relationship between Government, Tasmania Police and approved shooting clubs is best understood as one of complementary responsibilities.

267. Government establishes the legislative framework and oversees its enforcement. Approved clubs contribute by promoting compliance, reinforcing safe practices and providing structured opportunities for lawful participation.

268. The Committee considers that these functions are mutually reinforcing. Effective communication between regulators and approved clubs may assist in identifying practical implementation issues, supporting voluntary compliance and improving understanding of legislative change within the firearms community.

12.9 Future development

269. The continuing implementation of the National Firearms Register and other administrative reforms may create opportunities to further utilise the existing capability of approved shooting clubs.

270. Examples may include:

- dissemination of educational material regarding legislative amendments;
- assistance with implementation of new administrative processes;
- continued development of Range Officer capability;
- consultation on practical implementation issues; and
- participation in future reviews of Tasmania's firearms legislation.

271. The Committee considers that building upon existing institutional knowledge within approved clubs may assist both Government and licence holders in implementing future reforms effectively.

12.10 Committee Findings

Finding 27: Approved shooting clubs form an integral component of Tasmania's firearms regulatory framework through the provision of ongoing firearms safety education, supervision and practical reinforcement of legislative compliance.

Finding 28: Volunteer-run shooting clubs contribute to public safety, recognised sporting activities and regional communities through functions that complement the statutory licensing and enforcement framework.

Finding 29: Continued engagement between Government, Tasmania Police and approved shooting clubs is likely to support effective implementation of legislative reform and encourage voluntary compliance.

12.11 Recommendations

Recommendation 26: That Parliament recognise the contribution of approved shooting clubs as an important supporting element of Tasmania's firearms regulatory framework.

Recommendation 27: That Tasmania Police continue to engage with approved shooting clubs during implementation of the Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026 and the National Firearms Register.

Recommendation 28: That Government establish ongoing consultation arrangements with approved shooting clubs and recognised peak bodies to assist with implementation, review and future development of Tasmania's firearms legislation.

13. Other Matters Raised During Public Consultation

13.1 Introduction

272. During the public consultation process, considerable attention has been given to proposals for numerical limits on the number of firearms that may be lawfully possessed by individual licence holders.

273. The Executive Committee notes that these proposals have formed part of broader public discussion regarding firearms policy in Tasmania. They have also been the subject of public commentary by several stakeholders and political parties.

274. The Committee further notes, however, that these proposals are not contained within the Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026 currently before Parliament.

275. Accordingly, this submission has confined its detailed analysis to the legislative measures contained within the Bill.

13.2 Scope of this submission

276. As explained in Chapter 1, the purpose of this submission is to assist Parliament in its consideration of the provisions contained in the Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026.

277. The Committee has therefore not undertaken a detailed assessment of proposals relating to numerical firearm ownership limits.

278. The omission of detailed analysis should not be interpreted as indicating support for, or opposition to, those proposals. Rather, it reflects the Committee's decision to confine its observations to the legislative measures currently before Parliament.

279. This approach is intended to assist Parliament by ensuring that each proposal is considered within its proper legislative context.

13.3 Future consideration

280. Should numerical ownership limits form part of future legislative proposals, the Committee considers that they would warrant separate public consultation and detailed policy analysis.

281. Such consideration would ordinarily include examination of:

- the public policy objectives of the proposal;
- the evidence supporting legislative intervention;
- the anticipated public safety outcomes;
- the likely impacts upon lawful firearm owners, collectors, primary producers and recognised sporting disciplines; and
- alternative regulatory approaches capable of achieving the identified objectives.

282. The Committee considers that proposals of this nature would benefit from assessment against the same principles outlined in Chapter 3 of this submission, namely whether they are evidence-based, proportionate, practical to administer and capable of objective evaluation.

13.4 Committee observation

283. The Executive Committee has intentionally confined this submission to the provisions of the *Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026*. Proposals relating to numerical firearm ownership limits fall outside the scope of the Bill and have therefore not been the subject of detailed analysis.

284. Should such proposals be advanced through future legislation, they would merit separate consultation and independent assessment.

14. Conclusion

14.1 Overview

285. The *Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026* represents one of the most substantial reviews of Tasmania's firearms legislation since the enactment of the *Firearms Act 1996*. The proposed amendments encompass a broad range of reforms, from implementation of the National Firearms Register and administrative modernisation through to changes affecting firearm classification, collector licensing and the operation of the regulatory framework.

286. The Executive Committee recognises that the objectives of the Bill are directed towards strengthening public safety, improving national consistency and supporting contemporary firearms administration. Many of the administrative reforms proposed by the Bill can advance those objectives and have been supported in this submission.

287. The observations contained in this submission relate primarily to those proposals that would introduce significant changes to existing regulatory arrangements or affect classes of firearms that have historically been lawfully possessed under the current legislative framework.

14.2 Themes emerging from the review

288. In assessing the Bill, several recurring themes emerge.

289. First, effective firearms regulation is most likely to achieve its intended purpose where legislative measures respond to clearly identified public safety risks and are supported by an appropriate evidentiary foundation.

290. Secondly, the effectiveness of regulation depends not only upon the powers it creates but also upon the extent to which those powers are capable of practical implementation. Administrative arrangements that are clear, proportionate and readily understood are more likely to encourage voluntary compliance and facilitate efficient administration.

291. Thirdly, the review has highlighted the continuing contribution made by approved shooting clubs, firearms dealers, collectors and other participants in supporting the practical operation of Tasmania's firearms regulatory framework. These organisations provide education, supervision and structured participation that complement the statutory licensing system and assist in promoting responsible firearm ownership.

292. Finally, significant legislative reform benefits from transparent consultation, measurable policy objectives and appropriate mechanisms for post-implementation review.

14.3 A framework for Parliamentary consideration

293. The Committee has not approached the Bill from the perspective that additional regulation should be resisted. Nor has it assumed that every proposed amendment will necessarily improve public safety.

294. Instead, the submission has assessed the principal proposals against a consistent framework based on four questions:

- Does the proposal address an identifiable public safety risk?
- Is the proposed response supported by an appropriate evidentiary basis?
- Is the proposed regulatory response proportionate to the identified risk?
- Is the proposal capable of practical implementation and subsequent evaluation?

295. The Committee considers that these questions provide a useful framework for assessing both the current Bill and future amendments to Tasmania's firearms legislation.

14.4 Looking forward

296. Implementation of the National Firearms Register, together with the broader administrative reforms contained in the Bill, will continue to shape Tasmania's firearms regulatory framework over coming years.

297. Successful implementation is likely to depend upon ongoing collaboration between Parliament, Tasmania Police, approved shooting clubs, firearms dealers, collectors, primary producers and other participants operating within the statutory framework.

298. Continued consultation during implementation and subsequent review will assist in identifying operational issues, improving administrative efficiency and ensuring that legislative reforms continue to achieve their intended objectives.

299. Closing remarks

300. The Executive Committee appreciates the opportunity to contribute to the consultation on the Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026.

301. The Committee hopes that the observations contained in this submission assist Parliament in its consideration of the Bill and contribute to the development of legislation that:

- maintains public confidence in Tasmania's firearms regulatory framework;
- supports effective law enforcement;
- reduces opportunities for criminal misuse of firearms;
- remains practical and proportionate in its operation; and
- recognises the contribution of lawful firearm owners and approved organisations to the safe and responsible use of firearms.

302. The Executive Committee would welcome the opportunity to provide further information or appear before any Parliamentary Committee established to consider the Bill.