

From: Redacted
Sent: Wednesday, 5 August 2020 6:48 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Feedback relating to: Consultation on the Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026

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

I am a professional contractor in the invasive species eradication space. Specifically, I specialise in the eradication of vertebrate pests from islands and also conduct mainland control operations for various vertebrate pest species across Australia and internationally. My feedback is based on practical operational experience using firearms in professional vertebrate pest control.

I hold a Tasmanian firearms licence with Genuine Reason 4 ("a professional shooter whose principal or only occupation is controlling vertebrate pest animals") under my Category A/B firearms licence.

My feedback relates to the proposed reclassification of straight-pull and button-release or lever-release firearms into Category C. I currently use these firearms for specialised work where rapid follow-up shots may be required for operational effectiveness (for example, targeting a group of rabbits) or for safety (for example, having the capacity to deliver multiple rapid follow-up shots when shooting feral pigs in hostile terrain at close range). These firearms are an operational tool that enables effective and humane pest control in specific professional circumstances, rather than a matter of personal preference.

My work is contract-based and, although consistent, introduces the possibility that, if I held a Category C (or D) licence, I would move in and out of eligibility across different years as I undertake varying types and volumes of work. Should the proposed changes proceed, I may need to apply for regular changes to my licence category and acquire and dispose of Category C firearms to meet specific program and licensing requirements. This would create an ongoing administrative burden, and regular financial costs, despite my work continuing to involve legitimate professional vertebrate pest control over time.

I appreciate that many operators are employed full-time by agencies or undertake consistent contract work that requires Category C firearms and therefore would not be affected by the proposed changes. I understand that my circumstances are not common.

I ask that consideration be given to allowing Category A/B licence holders with Genuine Reason 4 to apply for an exemption, permit, or other mechanism that allows them to possess and use straight-pull and button-release or lever-release firearms for use in the professional control of vertebrate pest animals. Such an exemption could limit the use of these firearms to professional pest control activities undertaken under Genuine Reason 4 and would avoid unintended impacts on specialist operators while maintaining the intent of the proposed reforms.

I agree that these firearms have no place in the recreational shooting space. However, I believe that their complete reclassification will have unintended consequences for a small number of specialist professional operators who currently rely on these firearms to safely, humanely, and effectively deliver vertebrate pest control programs.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Redacted