



ONE NATION TASMANIA

***Submission on the Firearms Amendment
(Miscellaneous) Bill 2026***

Submitted to	Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management
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Strong laws for criminals. Fair treatment for lawful firearm owners.

Recommendations at a glance

One Nation Tasmania supports measures that target criminal misuse, while opposing restrictions that are not justified by clear evidence or proportionate public safety benefits.

Issue	Position	Recommendation
Reclassification	Oppose	Remove the Category C reclassification of straight-pull and button or lever-release firearms. No change should proceed without compelling Tasmania-specific evidence.
Compulsory buyback	Oppose	Abandon the compulsory buyback. If any lawfully acquired firearm is prohibited, provide permanent grandfathering or full independently assessed market-value compensation, including reasonable associated costs.
Magazine capacity	Oppose	Retain the existing 15-round limit unless Tasmania-specific crime data and a published cost-benefit analysis demonstrate a clear and measurable public-safety benefit.
Storage reporting	Oppose (minimum amend)	Remove the 24-hour reporting rule. At a minimum, restrict notification to permanent changes in principal storage location and expressly exempt temporary travel, farming, pest control, competition, repair and emergency storage.
Inspection powers	Oppose (minimum amend)	Do not grant broad demand powers over compliant owners. At a minimum, require consent, a warrant, properly notified compliance inspection, or reasonable grounds to suspect an offence or immediate safety risk.
Citizenship	Oppose (minimum amend)	Retain licence eligibility for suitable permanent residents who satisfy all identity, character, residency, licensing and genuine-reason requirements, with protection for existing compliant licence holders.
Firearm lending	Oppose (minimum amend)	Reject vague lending offences. At a minimum, apply a clear reasonable-steps test and reserve imprisonment for deliberate, knowing or reckless conduct—not administrative error.
National register	Support with safeguards	Require enforceable cybersecurity, restricted access, independent auditing, breach notification, correction rights, penalties for misuse and protections for dealers relying on official records.
Theft and trafficking	Support	Retain and strengthen measures targeting firearm theft, possession of stolen firearms and illegal trafficking, with aggravated penalties for organised, violent and repeat offending.
Bill structure	Oppose (minimum amend)	Divide the Bill so criminal enforcement measures can be supported separately from contested restrictions on lawful firearm owners.

Executive summary

One Nation Tasmania supports strong firearms laws that target criminals, disrupt organised crime and protect the community.

We support stronger penalties for firearm theft, illegal trafficking, possession of stolen firearms, breaches of Firearms Prohibition Orders and improved police cooperation targeting criminal firearm networks.

However, we do not support unnecessary restrictions on the thousands of Tasmanians who lawfully own firearms for farming, pest management, sporting shooting, hunting, collecting and primary production.

The overwhelming majority of licensed firearm owners comply with some of Australia's strictest licensing, storage and registration requirements. They are not responsible for firearm crime.

Good firearms legislation should be evidence-based, proportionate and directed towards genuine public safety outcomes rather than increasing administrative burdens on compliant licence holders.

While the Bill contains several worthwhile reforms, it also proposes measures—including firearm reclassification, magazine restrictions and additional administrative requirements—that have not been adequately justified through Tasmania-specific evidence.

One Nation Tasmania therefore cannot support the Bill in its current form and recommends a number of amendments that better balance public safety with the rights and responsibilities of lawful firearm owners.

One Nation Tasmania cannot support the Bill in its current form.

Guiding Principles

One Nation Tasmania has assessed this Bill against five principles.

1. Firearms laws should target criminals, not compliant licence holders.
2. Legislative restrictions should be supported by clear evidence.
3. Regulation should be practical and proportionate.
4. Government should respect lawfully acquired property.
5. Licensed firearm owners make an important contribution to Tasmania's economy, agriculture and regional communities.

Recognition of licensed firearm owners

Licensed firearm owners perform an important role throughout Tasmania.

They include:

- farmers;
- primary producers;
- professional pest controllers;
- recreational hunters;
- sporting shooters;
- collectors;
- firearm dealers; and
- approved shooting clubs.

These individuals contribute to:

- pest animal management;
- agricultural productivity;
- wildlife conservation;
- regional tourism;
- local businesses;
- sporting competition; and
- community organisations.

They already operate under comprehensive licensing, registration, secure storage and ongoing police oversight.

Legislation should recognise this positive contribution while focusing enforcement on criminal misuse.

Measures supported

One Nation Tasmania supports:

- stronger penalties for stealing firearms;
- tougher penalties for possession of stolen firearms;
- stronger offences targeting firearm trafficking;
- extending Firearms Prohibition Orders to ammunition and firearm parts;
- improved firearm tracing;
- stronger action against organised criminal groups;
- improved interstate policing cooperation; and
- enhanced intelligence targeting illegal firearm markets.

Government resources should remain focused on preventing firearms reaching criminals rather than imposing further regulation on people who already comply with the law.

Reclassification of firearms

One Nation Tasmania opposes moving straight-pull and button or lever-release firearms into Category C.

These firearms remain manually operated and require a deliberate action between shots. Straight-pull and lever-release firearms are commonly used by farmers and pest controllers because they permit efficient follow-up shots where necessary to ensure humane destruction of pest animals.

The Government has not demonstrated that they are disproportionately involved in crime or present a public safety risk requiring reclassification.

The proposal may:

- remove lawfully owned firearms from compliant owners;
- reduce firearm options for farmers and pest controllers;
- affect sporting disciplines;
- cause losses to owners and dealers; and
- require a costly taxpayer-funded buyback.

The reclassification should be removed. If it proceeds, existing owners must receive permanent grandfathering or full market-value compensation.

Magazine capacity

One Nation Tasmania opposes reducing the relevant magazine limit from 15 rounds to 10 rounds without clear evidence that the change will reduce crime.

Criminals do not comply with magazine restrictions. The immediate effect will fall on licensed owners whose firearms and magazines are already regulated and securely stored.

The existing limit should remain unless the Government produces Tasmania-specific evidence supporting the change.

Storage-location reporting

The proposed requirement to notify police when a firearm is stored away from a licence holder's home for more than 24 hours is impractical.

It could capture ordinary activities including:

- farming and pest control;
- hunting;
- travelling;
- shooting competitions;
- firearm repairs;
- temporary accommodation; and
- emergency relocation.

Notification should apply only to a long-term change in the firearm's principal storage location.

Temporary travel, competition, farming, pest control, repair and emergency storage should be exempt.

The Government must also address the serious privacy and cybersecurity risks created by recording the precise locations of firearms.

Police inspection powers

Police should be able to inspect firearms where there is reasonable suspicion of an offence, unsafe storage, unlawful modification or a registration problem.

However, broad power to demand production of a firearm at any reasonable time requires stronger safeguards.

Inspection should occur only:

- with consent;
- under a warrant;
- during a properly notified compliance inspection; or
- where police reasonably suspect an offence or immediate safety risk.

Citizenship and residency

One Nation Tasmania supports strong identity, residency, character and background checks.

However, citizenship alone should not determine whether a person is fit to hold a firearms licence.

Australian permanent residents who ordinarily live in Tasmania, satisfy all background checks and have a genuine reason should remain eligible.

Tasmania should also maintain practical pathways for experienced overseas shooters visiting the State for legitimate sporting or hunting purposes.

Consideration should be given to recognising equivalent overseas firearm licences from comparable jurisdictions, subject to appropriate background checks and temporary permit requirements.

Appropriate safeguards can maintain community safety while supporting regional tourism and ensuring Tasmania remains competitive with comparable international destinations.

Existing compliant licence holders should not lose their licence solely because they are not Australian citizens.

Interstate licence transfers

The proposed reduction in the timeframe for interstate licence holders relocating to Tasmania may create unnecessary compliance risks for individuals relocating for employment, farming or family reasons.

One Nation Tasmania recommends retaining a practical transition period that allows sufficient time for administrative processing while ensuring licence holders remain subject to appropriate oversight.

Firearm lending

One Nation Tasmania supports requiring lenders to verify that borrowers hold the correct licence.

However, a lender cannot guarantee another person's future intention to comply with storage laws.

Existing legislation should clearly distinguish between genuine criminal trafficking and temporary lending or transportation between appropriately licensed persons acting lawfully.

Legislative drafting should remove unnecessary ambiguity to ensure ordinary cooperation between licensed firearm owners cannot inadvertently give rise to trafficking concerns where no criminal intent exists.

The bill should require lenders to take reasonable steps to confirm:

- the borrower's licence is valid;
- the borrower is authorised to possess the firearm; and
- compliant storage is available.

Imprisonment should apply only to deliberate or reckless conduct, not administrative errors.

Dealers and the National Firearms Register

Recent cyber incidents affecting both government agencies and major Australian organisations demonstrate the importance of robust cybersecurity protections.

The National Firearms Register will contain sensitive personal information regarding firearm ownership and storage.

Any national register should therefore operate only with:

- independent cybersecurity auditing;
- encryption standards;
- access logging;
- breach notification;
- regular penetration testing;
- strict access controls;
- rapid correction processes;
- legislative penalties for misuse.

Firearm theft and trafficking

One Nation Tasmania supports tougher penalties for firearm theft, possession of stolen firearms and illegal trafficking.

Stronger aggravated penalties should apply where:

- multiple firearms are stolen;
- the offence is organised;
- the offender is a repeat offender;
- a dealer or club is targeted;
- violence is used; or
- the firearms are intended for criminal supply.

Licensed owners whose firearms are stolen should be treated as victims unless there is evidence of an actual storage offence.

Recognition of Licensed Hunters and Pest Controllers

Licensed hunters play an important role in Tasmania's environmental and agricultural landscape. They assist in controlling feral species including deer, wallabies, rabbits, feral cats and other invasive animals that cause significant damage to agricultural production, biodiversity and native habitats.

Responsible hunting also contributes to regional communities, food security and wildlife management while reducing pressure on government-funded pest control programs.

- Firearms legislation should expressly recognise hunting and pest animal management as legitimate public interests and ensure licensed hunters are not unnecessarily disadvantaged by regulatory changes that provide little demonstrable public safety benefit.

Government policy should continue to distinguish clearly between lawful recreational and pest-control activities undertaken by licensed firearm owners and criminal misuse of firearms.

Economic Contribution

Tasmania's hunting and sporting shooting sectors generate significant economic activity across regional Tasmania.

Licensed hunters and sporting shooters contribute through:

- accommodation
- fuel purchases
- food and hospitality
- firearm retailers
- ammunition and equipment suppliers
- vehicle servicing
- regional tourism
- shooting clubs
- competitions
- game processing

Regulatory changes that unnecessarily discourage lawful participation may reduce regional economic activity while delivering little measurable improvement in community safety.

Evidence

One Nation Tasmania believes that significant changes to firearms legislation should be supported by transparent, evidence-based analysis. Before introducing measures that impose additional restrictions on lawful firearm owners, the Government should publish the evidence demonstrating that the proposed reforms are necessary, proportionate and likely to improve public safety.

The Government should publish:

- the number of licensed firearm owners affected by each proposed amendment;
- the number and categories of firearms affected;
- estimated implementation and compensation (buyback) costs;
- a comprehensive Regulatory Impact Assessment;
- Tasmania-specific crime and enforcement data supporting each proposal;
- a cost-benefit analysis demonstrating the expected public safety outcomes; and
- the alternative policy options considered and the reasons they were not adopted.

Key recommendations

One Nation Tasmania recommends that the Government:

1. commit to meaningful stakeholder consultation and an independent post-implementation review of the reforms;
2. divide the Bill so criminal enforcement measures can be considered separately from contested restrictions affecting lawful firearm owners; and
3. remove the proposed Category C reclassification of straight-pull and button or lever-release firearms;
4. abandon the associated compulsory buyback and, if any lawfully acquired property is prohibited, provide permanent grandfathering or full independently assessed market-value compensation;
5. retain the existing 15-round magazine-capacity limit unless published Tasmania-specific evidence demonstrates a clear and measurable public safety benefit;
6. remove the 24-hour temporary storage-location reporting requirement and limit notification to permanent changes in principal storage location;
7. oppose broad firearm production and inspection powers and, at a minimum, require consent, warrant, properly notified compliance inspection, or reasonable suspicion of an offence or immediate safety risk;
8. retain licence eligibility for suitable permanent residents and protect existing compliant licence holders from cancellation based solely on citizenship status;
9. maintain a practical transition period for interstate licence holders relocating to Tasmania;
10. replace vague firearm-lending obligations with a clear reasonable-steps test and reserve imprisonment for deliberate, knowing or reckless conduct;
11. retain and strengthen measures targeting firearm theft, possession of stolen firearms and illegal trafficking, including aggravated penalties for organised, violent and repeat offending;
12. ensure licensed owners whose firearms are stolen are treated as victims unless there is evidence of an actual storage offence;
13. require enforceable privacy, cybersecurity, access-control, auditing, breach-notification and correction safeguards for the National Firearms Register, together with protections for dealers relying on official information;

14. formally recognise lawful hunting and pest animal management as legitimate public interests and avoid restrictions that unnecessarily harm regional economic activity;
15. publish the number of affected licence holders and firearms, estimated implementation and compensation costs, Tasmania-specific crime data, a comprehensive Regulatory Impact Assessment and a cost-benefit analysis for each restriction.

Conclusion

One Nation Tasmania supports strong and effective firearms laws that target criminals, disrupt illegal trafficking and protect the community. We support tougher action against those who steal firearms, possess stolen firearms, supply criminal networks or deliberately breach Firearms Prohibition Orders.

We do not support imposing unnecessary costs, restrictions or criminal liability on licensed Tasmanians who have complied with the law. Farmers, primary producers, hunters, pest controllers, sporting shooters, collectors, dealers and clubs make important contributions to agriculture, conservation, regional economies and community life. They should not be treated as the source of firearm crime.

The Government has not provided sufficient Tasmania-specific evidence to justify the proposed Category C reclassification, compulsory buyback, magazine-capacity reduction, 24-hour storage-reporting rule or broad inspection and lending provisions. Significant restrictions on lawful ownership must be supported by transparent crime data, a comprehensive Regulatory Impact Assessment, a cost-benefit analysis and clear evidence of a measurable public safety benefit.

One Nation Tasmania therefore opposes the Bill in its current form. At a minimum, the contested restrictions must be amended in accordance with the recommendations in this submission, and the Bill should be divided so that legitimate criminal enforcement measures can proceed separately from provisions affecting compliant firearm owners.

Tasmania can maintain strong community-safety standards without punishing responsible citizens. The proper approach is clear: stronger laws and penalties for criminals, fair treatment for lawful firearm owners, and legislation that is evidence-based, proportionate, practical and accountable.

One Nation Tasmania