

From: Redacted
Sent: Friday, 17 July 2026 4:13 PM
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Cc: Bevin, Edith (DPaC); Ellis, Felix (DPaC); felix.ellis@parliament.tas.gov.au
Subject: Firearms submission

Importance: High

You don't often get email from Redacted [Learn why this is important](#)
Dear Sir /Madam,

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Redacted I am a father, farmer, recreational hunter and the owner of the Sports Hut in Launceston.

The Sports Hut is a hunting and outdoor store that has been in business for over 40 years. The business has grown from its original premises of approx. 80 sq metres to 1700 sq metres. We moved to our new premises in November 2024 and have invested over 16 million dollars into the firearm industry since we purchased the Sports Hut in 2011. We have been able to do this through amazing local support from the firearm community.

We employ 12 full time and 10 casual staff, all of who are hunters or sporting shooters.

I am writing to formally present my submission regarding the public consultation for the *Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026*.

As a law-abiding Tasmanian firearms licence holder, primary producer, recreational hunter and firearms dealer, I support targeted measures to address gun crime but have serious concerns regarding the impact of specific amendments on responsible owners.

As a firearm dealer there are already constrictions on our trading due to inconsistencies in firearm laws across states. The proposed amendments will hinder us and restrict trade as we will be unable to stock and sell many items to and from interstate. In fact we will be at an disadvantage. For example; the reclassification of these firearms will impact our buying ability which means that we will pay higher prices for other stock and we will be unable to compete with our mainland competitors on price.

I would like to voice my objection to the reclassification of straight-pull and lever/button-release centrefire rifles and shotguns. There is no evidence to prove that these firearms present a greater risk than conventional manually operated firearms. Tasmania already has the toughest restrictions on types of firearm's allowed into the state. If we proceed with this proposal to reclassify these firearms, this is in contradiction to every other State excluding WA, and NSW are increasingly likely to reverse legislation on caps and reclassification. This is an acknowledgment of how impractical, inequitable, expensive and reactive this decision was.

By moving straight-pull and lever/button-release centrefire rifles and shotguns to Category C, it will create additional (and unnecessary) red tape for individuals who use these firearms for legitimate safety reasons and pest management.

I support legislation that improves public safety and targets the criminals, not law abiding citizens.

Strong action against firearm theft, illicit trafficking and unlawful possession is appropriate and necessary. Responsible firearms owners have every interest in ensuring firearms remain in the hands of people who are properly licensed and subject to appropriate compliance requirements.

I am concerned regarding the level of responsibility that lies with the Police Commissioner in relation to the Firearms Act. There needs to be an independent body established to oversee the Firearms Act. The Commissioner's stance is well known to be anti-gun, therefore, the Commissioner's position in relation to the Act is biased and conflicted.

Item 5 section 3, Button release firearms (C) states: 'uses energy of the firearm discharge to perform all, or part of the cycle of operation'. Perform all needs to be removed. If it was to perform all it would be a semi-automatic.

Item 5: Handgun shooting club means a shooting organisation that conducts or organises shooting competitions. This needs to include practice shoots.

Item 5, Straight pull action firearms (B): 'That does not require any rotation of the handle bolt or similar part of the firearm during the unlocking and locking of the firearm'. Please be aware there are some "straight pull" firearms that require a bolt lift to allow this lineal action to cycle. As you state 'does not require any rotation of the bolt handle' some lineal action firearms will be excluded.

In Item 8, Category A firearms (A) (i): 'Has a magazine capacity of no more than 10 rounds'. This needs to be removed. Some PCP air rifle have a magazine capacity of up to 34 rounds. These type of firearms are only suitable for Vermin control. This is not a restricted item to import and are not restricted in any other state. Why would we be inconsistent to every other state?

Item 8, Category A firearms (B) Rimfire rifles (i): 'Has a detachable firearms magazine with a capacity of no more than 10 rounds'. Some rifles come standard with 15 round magazines. Tube fed rimfire rifles have a magazine capacity of 15. There is no practical reason to restrict the magazine capacity to 10. Once again this will put us at odds with all other states.

Item 12 section 19A firearm dealer employee licence (B): 'To Purchase, acquire, take possession of or sell firearms of a category specified in the firearms dealer licence'. This statement needs to include test. Testing is a part of the job and must be included.

Item 15 Section 29 There needs to be an exemption for temporary licencing for a person from overseas who is a manufacturer of firearms, firearm parts, ammunition and/or components to a licenced firearm dealer. Surely more arduous background checks and investigations into the genuine reasons to own a firearm are more suitable than just being an Australian citizen or New Zealand citizen and permanent resident of Australia.

Item 19 section 46 General condition of licence (bb): 'If the firearm is to be stored at an address other than the residential address of the licensee for more than 24 hours, the licensee must notify the commissioner in an approved form of the change of location.' This is ridiculous and completely impractical.

The amount of additional administrative processes required to monitor this is exorbitant; For example: opening weekend of any hunting season: there are 6000 licenced recreational deer hunters. How do you propose to manage the number of notifications that will come through your department over this weekend? It appears that the proposed short term time frame is merely a tactic to 'catch out' law abiding firearm owners.

Section 56 Corresponding Licence (b): 'that is enforced for a period of 7 days from' (a) 'during that 7 day period has applied for a firearms licence under this Act' – Firearm Services cannot meet demand currently on firearms licencing, licence renewals and applications, therefore managing written permissions from the Commissioner in a 7 day period is unachievable and impractical.

Additionally, all firearms coming from a licenced individual from interstate, which aren't shipped dealer to dealer, should be registered at a licenced firearm dealer, not Service Tasmania. It is a requirement by the dealer that all firearms are physically checked and correctly registered, which does not occur at Service Tasmania. These firearms are registered from documentation only, not physically checked to confirm category, serial number or that the firearm actually arrived in the state.

Section 38 Section 118 Suppressors and Magazines (b): 'by omitting from subsection (3) (c) "15 rounds and substituting "10 rounds. Why are we limiting rimfire magazine capacities, as this is in contrast to other states?

Item 54 Section 16c: 'Despite section 7, if a person is convicted of a relevant firearms offence, the court that convicts the person of, or imposes the person a sentence upon the conviction for, the offence is to order the person to serve a term of imprisonment of not less than 3 months in respect to the offence, unless subsection(3) applies.' This proposed sentence is far too lenient and will achieve nothing in deterring criminal activity. Clauses (a) and (b) (i) and (ii) outline far too many loopholes meaning its highly likely that no one will ever be sentenced.

There is more leniency towards criminals than there is for current law abiding firearm owners, who are being punished by the State Government for not breaking the law.

Redacted

SPORTS HUT

QUALITY HUNTING & OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT

LICENCED GUN DEALER NO. 73891

5 Doyne Street
Invermay TAS 7248

Redacted