

TasFarmers

41–43 Wellington Street
Longford
TAS 7301

Ref: TF-2026-166

07/08/2026

Submissions at Strategy and Support

Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management
GPO Box 308
Hobart
TAS 7001

Dear Submissions at Strategy and Support,

RE: TasFarmers' Submission – Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026

TasFarmers is the peak representative body for agriculture in Tasmania and is dedicated to advocating for Tasmanian farmers across a wide range of commodities. Agriculture is a key pillar of Tasmania's economy, and we are committed to ensuring the sector remains profitable and sustainable.

TasFarmers have responded directly to the proposed amendments listed on the consultation information sheet.

1. Reclassification of Straight Pull and Button/Lever Release Centre-Fire Rifles and Shotguns to Category C. (Cat. C)

Recommendation

- a. TasFarmers do not agree on the need to reclassify these firearms. The primary reason for the original introduction of Category C was to be limited to semi-automatic firearms, which straight pull/lever-release firearms are not. Such firearms represent developing technology which has enabled primary producers to better cope with the increasing load of pest species and vermin control and should remain available to them on a Cat. A or Cat. B Licence.
- b. If such reclassification occurs the limit for primary producers should be increased to at least three; one Cat. C rimfire rifle, one Cat. C centre-fire rifle and one Cat. C shotgun.
- c. TasFarmers also recommend that in addition to the primary owner/operator, family members, agents or employees actively participating in the operation of the primary production property be eligible for a Cat. C licence.

2. Australian Citizenship Requirement for Eligibility for a Tasmanian Firearms Licence

Recommendation

TasFarmers agree that there should be more scrutiny of the citizenship of Firearms Licence holders but consider that the grounds for exemptions should be more specific

and that a system of permits be introduced rather than Commissioner's exemptions. This is even more pertinent given the recent trend against granting exemptions.

3. On-Lending of Registered Firearms to a Third Party

Recommendation

TasFarmers support the proposal to restrict on lending of firearms to a third party.

4. Lending of Registered Firearms Between Licensed Persons

Recommendation

- a. TasFarmers supports the proposal to clarify the procedure of lawful lending of registered firearms between appropriately licensed persons however; to avoid the serious problems and disruption caused by the troubled implementation of the West Australian system, these specific amendments must not come into force until the NFR portal is secure and fully operational.
- b. Given that a licence-holder must have approved storage before they can purchase a firearm but can hold a valid licence without being an actual firearm owner, a person's licence should be endorsed in some way to signify that they have approved storage and that this is reflected on the NFR. This would enable the lender to see if the borrower has appropriate storage.
- c. Security of personal data on the NFR is paramount. A procedure must be adopted such that the lender can only view the borrower's profile with their consent and whilst in their presence.

5. Definitions

Recommendation

In the interests of national consistency and the NFR, TasFarmers supports the proposal to standardise the definition of 'pistol' to 'handgun' and firearm sound suppressor' to 'suppressor'.

6. Definition of 'Firearm' and 'Firearm Part'

Recommendation

While previously TasFarmers have recommended that 'firearm part' should only apply to the breech, frame or receiver, TasFarmers now recognises that with the advent of 3D printers the broader definition of 'firearm part' as proposed is now appropriate.

7. Notification to Tasmania Police if Firearm Stored at Another Location for More Than 24 Hours

Recommendation

- a. While the intention of this proposal is understood, TasFarmers is concerned about the practicality of the proposed change. TasFarmers recommends that this proposal be reviewed with a longer notification timeframe and some form of approved storage verification, similar to that proposed for lending, be available to those affected.
- b. TasFarmers notes the Q&A document supplied by Tasmania Police recognises that a firearm is deemed in the owner's 'possession' while on a hunting trip exceeding 24

hours and thus not requiring the proposed notification and interpret this to mean that the same would apply to a two week or two-month pest control operation.

8. Notification of Change of Address

Recommendation

TasFarmers understand that currency of the NFR is the intention behind changing notification of change of address from two weeks to 24 hours 'or as soon as practicable' but recommend "within 7 days" as a more practical amendment.

9. Firearms Dealers' Employees

Recommendation

TasFarmers fully supports the proposed changes to allow firearms dealer's employees to have greater scope to conduct the business in the temporary absence of the licenced dealer.

10. Residents Moving from Interstate to Tasmania

Recommendation

TasFarmers consider that the proposed change requiring a new resident to register for a Tasmanian firearms licence within 7 days of arriving the state is unreasonable and does not support the proposed change. The disruption workload, and upheaval of moving home, especially from interstate and particularly to Tasmania where a ferry crossing is required is significant. If the person has a valid interstate licence, verifiable on NFR, and has approved storage then the existing 3 months seems reasonable when compared to the 6-month period of grace for changing a driving licence.

TasFarmers do not support the proposed amendment.

11. Licence Holders to Notify Tasmania Police 7 Days Prior to a Change of Circumstances

Recommendation

TasFarmers recommend that the proposed amendment be "within 7 days prior to or after the relevant change has occurred."

TasFarmers understand that currency of the NFR is the intention behind changing the timeframe for notification of change of name and/or change of address.

TasFarmers notes the Q&A document supplied by Tasmania Police states the proposed change is from two weeks down to 24 hours prior to or after the change but the Consultation Information Sheet supplied by Tasmania Police states that notification must be "...at least 7 days before a change...". Inspection of the draft Bill reveals that the actual proposal is to amend Section 57 such that notification is to be "...at least 7 days before".

TasFarmers do not support the draft amendment proposed as any such notification would be an intention to change which in some circumstances may not occur.

12. Person in Possession of a Firearm to Produce for Inspection on Request from Police

Recommendation

TasFarmers understand that currency of the NFR is the intention behind this proposed amendment whereby a person, other than the registered owner, may be requested to

produce the firearm for inspection. This covers firearms such as those on-loan or at an authorized repair facility. TasFarmers does not oppose this amendment.

13. Possession of Stolen Firearms

Recommendation

TasFarmers supports the amendments to clarify the manner in which charges of possession of stolen firearms are prosecuted and increased penalties for those convicted.

14. Trafficking in Firearms and Possession

Recommendation

TasFarmers strongly recommend that the amendments to Section 110A must include recognition that an appropriately licensed person may lawfully possess a registered firearm not registered to them, but which is on loan to them from the licensed owner. This is an issue which TasFarmers has previously brought to the attention of Government. The proposed amendments in this draft Bill do not rectify the existing deficiency.

15. Charges of Trafficking to be Tried Summarily

Recommendation

TasFarmers do not oppose the proposed amendment provided that the problem with Section 110A, described in point 14 above, is appropriately rectified.

16. Summary Offence of Stealing a Firearm

Recommendation

TasFarmers do not oppose the proposed amendment provided that the available penalties for the summary offence are severe enough to be a deterrent, such as two years imprisonment.

17. Firearm Prohibition Orders

Recommendation

TasFarmers supports the proposed amendment to include firearm parts, ammunition and suppressors in a prohibition order.

18. Magazine Capacity Limits

Recommendation

- a. TasFarmers does not support the premise that reducing the magazine capacity of a bolt action rifle from 15 to ten rounds will “further enhance public safety” and therefore does not support the proposed amendment to Section 118(3)(c).
- b. TasFarmers express concern that internal and non-detachable magazines (regardless of capacity) have been omitted from the definitions in Section 14(1)(b) and Section 15(1)(b) and strongly recommend that they must be included.
- c. TasFarmers recommend that the capacity of detachable magazines of Cat.A and Cat.B rifles used for crop protection and vermin control be increased to twenty (20) rounds.

19. Identification Requirements for Licence Applicants

Recommendation

TasFarmers supports the proposed amendment.

20. Mandatory Minimum Sentences

Recommendation

- a. TasFarmers supports the proposed mandatory minimum sentence for convictions of stealing a firearm,
- b. TasFarmers supports the proposed mandatory minimum sentence for convictions of possession of a stolen firearm, provided that the firearm has not been purchased in good faith through approved processes of checks and verification and subsequently discovered to have been stolen at some point in the past.

In addition to the above twenty points TasFarmers make the following recommendations:

21. Recognition of Interstate Licence Holders

TasFarmers recommends Amendment to Section 55 of the Tasmanian Firearms Act which would be consistent with other states and the NFA:

Licence not equied in certain circumstances

S.55. A person who is a resident of another State or a Territory is not required to hold a Category A firearms licence, a Category B firearms licence or a Category H firearms licence –

- (a) if the person is the holder of a corresponding licence; and
- (b) for the purpose of participating in an approved shooting competition or for any other approved purpose.

Recommendation

At s.55 (b) after shooting competition insert “primary production, vermin control, and recreational hunting”.

22. International Visitors

Recommendation

In line with TasFarmers’ previous advocacy, we recommend a clearly defined and functioning permit system to allow appropriately licensed and competent international visitors during a defined stay the ability to actively participate in activities such as those proposed listed under an amended s.55, ie., “shooting competition, primary production, vermin control, recreational hunting or for any other approved purpose.”

23. Suppressors

Recommendation

TasFarmers recommend the introduction of a clear and functional permit system which would allow appropriately licensed primary producers to purchase, possess and use suppressors for crop/property protection purposes.

A Tasmanian government trial in 2010 established the advantages of increased efficiency in using suppressors for vermin control. Suppressors are legally used in New Zealand and the United Kingdom for recreational hunting, the UK having recently further

relaxed the regulation of suppressors recognising acceptance of their use as best practice.

TasFarmers thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed amendments and have outlined our position on the issues raised. We welcome ongoing consultation as required. Please contact us should you require further information.

Kind regards,

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