

Consultation Information Sheet

In 2023, following concerns about firearms information sharing between jurisdictions, including issues highlighted after the December 2022 Wieambilla murders in Queensland, National Cabinet agreed to proceed with implementation of the National Firearms Register (NFR). The Commonwealth subsequently committed to establish the NFR to upgrade firearms management systems across Australia.

Tasmania has consistently participated in national firearms reform initiatives and maintains its own firearms registry through Tasmania Police. As a signatory jurisdiction to the National Firearms Agreement, Tasmania is participating in the development of the National Firearms Register. The Tasmanian Government supports improved national information sharing through the NFR recognising the benefits of a nationally connected firearms intelligence capability.

The National Firearms Register is intended to provide law enforcement agencies with near real-time access to accurate information about registered firearms, firearm licences, permits and other relevant records across Australia. Rather than requiring police agencies to make inquiries with multiple jurisdictions, the NFR will provide a single national view of a firearm's lifecycle, from manufacture or importation through to transfer, surrender, destruction or export. This will improve the ability of police to trace firearms, identify risks associated with firearm ownership, investigate firearm trafficking and theft, and ensure regulatory decisions are based on complete and current information.

From a community safety perspective, the NFR is expected to strengthen both public and police safety. It will assist in preventing firearms from being diverted into illicit markets, improve the identification of firearms linked to criminal activity, enhance intelligence sharing between jurisdictions, and provide frontline police with better information when responding to incidents involving firearms. By delivering a consistent and reliable national picture of lawful firearm ownership and firearm movements, the NFR is intended to reduce opportunities for regulatory gaps between jurisdictions and improve Australia's overall firearms management framework.

Stolen firearms in the hands of criminals pose a significant threat to the community. This Bill creates a mandatory minimum sentence of three months imprisonment for being caught in possession of a stolen firearm. The introduction of mandatory sentences for stealing a firearm and possession of a stolen firearm will be achieved through amendments to the *Sentencing Act 1997*.

In the wake of the tragic events at Bondi on 14 December 2025, on 27 February 2026 the Tasmanian Government announced further measures to improve community safety. These measures include the reclassification of straight pull and button/lever release rifles and shotguns to the more restrictive Category C licence and establishing Australian citizenship as the default eligibility requirement for firearms licensing with exemptions for New Zealand citizens in defined circumstances such as primary production.

The *Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026* includes reclassification and citizenship provisions that will require a buyback of affected firearms. These provisions are relevant to ongoing negotiations with the Australian Government regarding funding for a buyback scheme.

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Firearms Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2026

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Proposed amendments to the *Firearms Act 1996* are listed below.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS INCLUDE:

1. Reclassification of straight pull and button/lever release centre-fire rifles and shotguns to the more restrictive Category C licence.
2. Establishing Australian citizenship as the default eligibility requirement for firearms licensing, with provisions for limited exemptions for New Zealand citizens in defined circumstances such as primary production, or if granted an exemption from this requirement by the Commissioner of Police.
3. Currently registered firearms can be lent between licensed firearms owners and then on lent to a third party. The proposed amendment will permit lending from a firearms owner to a second person but restrict on lending that firearm to a third party. This will lessen the likelihood of firearms being lost or misplaced.
4. A person who lends a firearm must satisfy themselves that the borrower's licence is valid and has appropriate and lawful storage facilities. To facilitate this several definitions have been added to support the implementation of the NFR, including 'lend', 'borrow', 'on-lend' and 'verify'.
5. Several definitions are to be amended for national consistency, such as pistol amended to 'handgun' and 'firearm sound suppressor' to 'suppressor'.
6. The definition of 'firearm' and 'firearm part' are to be clarified following the receipt of expert advice.
7. If firearms are intended to be stored at a location other than the residential address of the registered owner for period greater than 24 hours, the owner will need to notify Tasmania Police.
8. If a firearms owner intends to change residential address, the owner must notify Tasmania Police 24 hours before that change of address, or as soon as practicable after that change is made.
9. There will be increased scope for firearms dealer employees to possess and handle firearms and firearm parts, as well as purchase and sell firearms in the absence of the holder of the firearms dealer licence.
10. A resident from interstate who intends to reside in Tasmania will now have 7 days to apply for a Tasmanian licence across all categories. Previously Category A, B licence holders had 3 months.

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11. A firearms licence holder must notify Tasmania Police at least 7 days before a change in personal particulars. This was previously within 14 days after the change.
12. Any person in possession of a firearm (whether or not they are the owner) must produce the firearm for inspection when requested to do so by a police officer. This previously only applied to the registered owners of firearms.
13. Amendment to the structure of the section regarding the crime of possession of stolen firearm, this will increase the penalty for possession of stolen firearms and clarify how a matter can be prosecuted.
14. Possession of stolen firearms will become an alternative conviction for a person charged with Unlawful trafficking in firearms. This means that where a court does not find a person guilty of unlawful trafficking in firearms, they may be convicted of possessing stolen firearms if the alternate charge is proven.
15. Unlawful trafficking in firearms will be able to be tried summarily if the defendant and the prosecutor consent. This will speed up the administration of justice and holding offenders accountable when a matter does not warrant being dealt with in the Supreme Court.
16. A new summary offence of Stealing a firearm or firearm part will be created, to mirror the crime of stealing a firearm or firearm part in the Criminal Code. This will provide a summary option so that offenders can be held to account when a matter does not warrant being dealt with in the Supreme Court.
17. A firearm prohibition order will now apply not only to firearms, but will also apply to firearm parts, ammunition and suppressors.
18. The introduction of magazine ammunition capacity limits for some category A and B firearms to further enhance public safety.
19. The updating of identification requirements for licence applications as the Act currently references repealed Commonwealth legislation.
20. Creation of a mandatory minimum sentence of three months' imprisonment for being caught in possession of a stolen firearm or for stealing a firearm.

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21. The updating of sections 91 and 93 to allow dealer record keeping to be made and held electronically, in readiness for the implementation of the NFR.

Feedback on the Bill is invited from all members of the community. Consultation commences 3 July 2026 and closes 7 August 2026 (five weeks). Information on consultation and a copy of the Bill is available at <https://www.police.tas.gov.au/consultations/>

How to make a submission

Written submissions must be received no later than 5:00 pm on Friday 31 July 2026

You can make a submission by:

EMAIL to:	submissions.strategy.support@DPFEM.tas.gov.au
POST to:	Submissions at Strategy and Support Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management GPO Box 308 Hobart TAS 7001

In accordance with the Tasmanian government's public submissions policy, all submissions will be published on the Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management website at <https://www.police.tas.gov.au/consultations/>

Parties making a submission may request that the submission is treated as confidential. Reasons are to accompany such a request. A copy of the public submissions policy is available at <https://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/>