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26 November 2024

**Submissions at Strategy and Support,
Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management,
GPO Box 308,
Hobart,
TAS 7001**

By email: submissions.strategy.support@DPFEM.tas.gov.au

Dear Sir or Madam,

Proposed changes to regulation of antique firearms

The major problem with this “consultation” process is that the government is proposing to override the plan put forward by the Police Commissioner to better regulate these firearms.

There is no point responding to the changes the government says it is committed to introducing. And we can only wonder why the government is even “consulting” about these changes.

It is remarkable that at the very time WA is tightening up its gun laws, Tasmania decides to water the laws down as they apply to antique firearms.

It is further noted the consultation paper points to no evidence of any publicly or privately expressed problems with the way the laws have operated since 1996 as they apply to antique firearms. The consultation paper does not reveal the number of antique firearms, the number of owners involved, or any data at all. It provides no basis for analysis of the changes the government has committed to (which is against the advice of Tasmania Police).

As to the other proposals:

1. The requirement for an owner of an antique firearm to undergo a fit and proper person test in accordance with the Firearms Act 1996.

This accords with the National Firearms Agreement – moving away from this requirement will breach the agreement. If a person is not a fit and proper person, they should not have a gun. There should be no exceptions.

2. The need for tags to be attached to the antique firearm, and whether removal of a tag should be considered an offence.

This is a matter for the advice of Tasmania Police as to whether tagging is effective in keeping track of firearms. Is it? Has it been used elsewhere? Have Tasmania Police reviewed it?

3. Where an antique firearm is capable of being fired, the need for that firearm to be licensed appropriately under the *Firearms Act 1996*.

That it is contemplated to have operable firearms that are not licenced – and further where the owner is not a fit or proper person – is mystifying and will damage trust in the firearm regulation system in Tasmania. It will, again, cause national embarrassment to Tasmania.

Yours faithfully,



Roland Browne
Vice-President