

Consultation Information Sheet

POLICE OFFENCES AMENDMENT (KNIVES AND PROHIBITED WEAPONS) BILL 2026

As part of the Tasmanian Government's ongoing commitment to community safety under the 2030 Strong Plan for Tasmania's Future, the Government is progressing further reforms to the *Police Offences Act 1935* aimed at reducing knife-related harm and strengthening regulatory controls around the sale, supply and possession of knives and prohibited weapons.

These reforms build on existing commitments under the 'Strong Plan to Crack Down on Crime' and are intended to prevent access to knives by young people, improve retail compliance, and reduce the circulation of dangerous weapons in the community.

To support these objectives, the Government is proposing a series of amendments to the *Police Offences Act 1935* and is releasing these proposals for public consultation before they are considered by Parliament.

The proposed changes include:

- Creating a new summary offence prohibiting the sale or supply of knives to persons under the age of 18 without a lawful excuse.
- Introducing mandatory signage and secure storage requirements for all retail outlets where knives are sold.
- Establishing liability provisions for employers where an employee contravenes the relevant legislation.
- Creating a new summary offence for a person who makes a false statement or provides false evidence when asked by a seller to produce proof of age.
- Introducing a legislative amendment to prohibit the supply, manufacture, display, advertising, sale, purchase and possession of a prohibited weapon, with machetes proposed to be prescribed as a prohibited weapon.
- Providing an exemption for agricultural purposes, including for training and the supply of equipment to agricultural businesses.

Feedback on the Bill is invited from all members of the community. Consultation commences on 9 July 2026 and closes 13 August 2026. Information on the consultation and a copy of the Bill is available at www.police.tas.gov.au/consultations/

How to make a submission

We must receive all written submissions by 5:00 PM on 13 August 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 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 www.dpac.tas.gov.au/

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS INCLUDE:

1. Prohibition on sale or supply of knives to persons under 18 (without genuine reason)

Introduce a new provision prohibiting the sale or supply of knives to persons under the age of 18 without a lawful excuse, strengthening restrictions on youth access to bladed weapons.

The prohibition does not apply to youths aged 16–17 who have a genuine reason, which includes:

- (a) a lawful occupation;

- (b) a lawful educational or training activity;
- (c) a lawful activity in respect of collection, display or exhibition;
- (d) a lawful religious observance;

16–17-Year-olds must also provide identification evidence before a sale can occur.

2. Mandatory signage and secure requirements for knife retailers

Introduce a new provision requiring all retail outlets selling knives to display mandatory signage and implement secure storage measures, improving public awareness, and reducing unauthorised access to knives.

3. False proof of age offence in relation to knife purchases

A new provision creating a summary offence for individuals who make a false statement or provide false evidence when requested by a retailer in relation to the purchase of a knife, supporting effective enforcement of age restrictions.

4. Prohibition on supply, manufacture, sale and possession of prohibited weapons including machetes.

A provision prohibiting the supply, manufacture, sale, purchase, and possession of prohibited weapons, with machetes expressly included within the definition of prohibited weapons.

The prohibition does not apply to:

- Police officers acting in the course of their duties.
- State Service employees or officers acting in the course of their duties.
- Agricultural professionals, but only if:
 - the weapon is used solely for work-related purposes, and
 - it is kept in a securely locked receptacle when not in use.