



Regulation of Pre-1900 Firearms, Antiques

To Whom It May Concern,

We wish to express our concerns regarding the proposed changes to the regulation of pre-1900 firearms on behalf of the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party of Tasmania (SFF).

The proposed regulations aim to register previously unregistered antique firearms. However, these changes introduce contradictions. If a pre-1900 firearm is deemed capable of discharging, it would be treated as a conventional firearm, even though it is an antique. This approach seems inconsistent and unnecessary, particularly given the absence of documented instances of violence involving pre-1900 firearms.

Accessing black powder, necessary for these firearms to operate, is already highly regulated and challenging for licensed individuals, let alone for criminals. Furthermore, many jurisdictions, including Victoria and New South Wales, classify firearms using obsolete ammunition as outside the scope of regulation.

Pre-1900 firearms are inherently limited in their rate of fire, metallurgy, and overall safety. Their slow operation and the age of their materials make them far less "dangerous" than modern firearms. Forcing the regulation of these items does not align with their actual risk profile.

Collectors value these firearms as investments, family heirlooms, and pieces of history. The uncertainty surrounding their regulation has already diminished their value. Additionally, custom storage solutions are often required due to the unique dimensions of antique firearms, which can exceed seven feet in length.

It is troubling that these regulatory changes were introduced without proper consultation, reflecting an overreach of the Commissioner's powers under the Act. With the Firearms Act referencing the Commissioner 243 times, this level of authority far surpasses other key legislation. The police's role is to enforce laws, not create them.

SHOOTERS FISHERS and FARMERS Tasmania



These changes appear to be a solution in search of a problem. Antique firearms do not present a credible threat to public safety, and their regulation should reflect this reality.

Regards,

Carlo Difalco

Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party Tasmania