Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: paul travers [redacted]
Sent: 26 July 2026 13:16
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Police Offences Bill 2026

[redacted]

To whom it may concern,

My name is Paul Travers & below is my submission to the proposed changes to Police Offences Bill 2026.

I am a Tasmanian rural resident & do not agree with certain aspects of the proposed changes to the bill, mainly to do with classing 'machetes' as prohibited weapons.

1- Machetes are not weapons, they are a tool, used extensively by persons such as myself on a regular basis either at home around rural properties or whenever in the bush for hunting, fishing, camping etc.

2- Your use of the label 'machete' is extremely ambiguous & open to broad misinterpretation. What exactly is a machete? Could not other hand tools used for cutting purposes also fall under this label, such as fern hooks, slashers, draw knives etc? Where is the line drawn & how do we know?

3- Paragraph 14E (Interpretation), prohibited weapons,
"(b) a thing, item or article prescribed as a prohibited weapon."
This paragraph makes the reclassification of almost anything to a prohibited weapon almost as easy as the flick of a pen & thereby making regulatory overreach an easy option.

4- There appears to be no allowance for anyone who chooses to collect knives, swords or any other cutting tool or implement, many of which may fall under the loose term 'machete'.

5- Allowances are made for agricultural workers but not for people who simply choose to live in a rural or bushland environment & need to use these tools on a regular basis even though they may not be 'agricultural workers'.

Stronger control over sales of knives to youths & storage requirements in stores is probably a good step forward in crime prevention, but making commonly used hand tools basically illegal for ordinary every day people, who need to use them on a regular basis, is, in my opinion, not going to solve any issues.
If non law abiding individuals wish to do harm to another person with a large knife or 'machete' the act of taking them away from law abiding individuals will have no bearing on the outcome. It is not difficult to build something for use as a cutting weapon. With a piece of flat steel & an angle grinder any criminal could easily manufacture a 'machete' in under 10 minutes.
Where then is the reasoning behind removing these simple tools from ordinary persons tool sheds & therefore making life more difficult for the lack of a common, versatile & easy to use tool?
Anyone who believes that nobody uses tools such as these in this day & age is completely out of touch with rural life.

From where I sit, this proposed amendment tries to solve a problem that doesn't exist & is poorly thought through. It appears to be pandering to the whims of a minority of city dwellers with little or no concept of life in a rural environment, who seem to wish for nothing more than to force their paradigm on honest & hard working people who are causing no harm to any other.

Yours Sincerely,
Paul Travers.