Submissions.Strategy.Support

From: Owen Wensley [redacted]
Sent: 12 July 2026 12:08
To: Submissions.Strategy.Support
Subject: Proposed knife rules

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I am writing to express my strong opposition to aspects of the proposed knife legislation in Tasmania, particularly the proposed ban on machetes.

I fully support sensible measures that target violent crime and those who misuse weapons. However, I do not believe this proposal will effectively address the causes of violent offending, while it will have significant impacts on law-abiding Tasmanians.

The proposed ban on machetes is especially concerning. Machetes are legitimate tools used by farmers, landowners, gardeners, contractors, campers, and outdoor enthusiasts throughout Tasmania. Like many tools, they can be misused, but the overwhelming majority of owners use them responsibly for lawful purposes. Banning an entire class of tools because of the actions of a small number of offenders sets a worrying precedent. Criminals who intend to commit violence are unlikely to be deterred by further prohibitions, while responsible citizens will bear the burden of additional restrictions.

It is already concerning that, under the proposed legislation, ordinary Tasmanians would face greater restrictions on carrying even a small pocket knife for legitimate everyday purposes. Extending these restrictions further by banning machetes represents another step away from targeting criminal behaviour and toward limiting the lawful activities of responsible members of the community.

The legislation appears to place greater emphasis on restricting possession by responsible members of the public rather than addressing the individuals who actually commit violent offences. Existing laws already provide police with powers to deal with threatening behaviour, assault, and the unlawful use of knives. Enforcing these laws effectively would seem a more balanced approach than creating broader restrictions affecting people who have no criminal intent.

Tasmania has a strong tradition of agriculture, forestry, land management, and outdoor recreation. Machetes are practical tools used for clearing vegetation, property maintenance, and other legitimate purposes. Legislation should recognise these lawful uses and avoid unnecessarily restricting access to tools that many responsible Tasmanians rely upon.

I respectfully ask you to reconsider this aspect of the proposed legislation. Any reforms should focus on criminal misuse of knives, repeat violent offenders, and gang-

related violence rather than imposing a blanket ban that disproportionately affects law-abiding Tasmanians.

I hope you will advocate within your party for amendments that preserve the ability of responsible Tasmanians to own legitimate tools while ensuring strong penalties remain for those who use any weapon to commit violent crime.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my concerns. I look forward to your response and to understanding how you intend to represent the views of constituents who believe this legislation goes beyond what is necessary to improve public safety.

Yours sincerely,

Owen wensley

Sent from my iPhone