THE LAW SOCIETY OF TASMANIA

14 August 2026

Submission at Strategy & Support
Department of Police, Fire & Emergency Management

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

Dear Sir/Madam,

Police Offences Amendment (Knives & Prohibited Weapons) Bill 2026

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Bill, which has been considered by the Society's Criminal Law Committee.

The *Police Offences Amendment (Knives and Prohibited Weapons) Bill 2026* ("the Bill") seeks to impose further obligations on those selling or supplying knives to persons under the age of 18 without what it describes as a lawful excuse. The Bill also creates a further summary offence for those falsely identifying themselves as being over the age of 18.

Proposed Section 14E

A machete is a prohibited weapon but is not defined. This is likely to create uncertainty. If an item is thought to be so dangerous it is to be prohibited, it ought to be capable of being clearly defined.

Proposed Section 14F

The exceptions in subsection 2 do not apply to selling a machete. We therefore have the strange situation where an agricultural professional can possess and use a machete, but cannot purchase one.

Proposed Section 34H

The imposition of summary charges targeting youths is problematic. The main aim when dealing with juvenile offenders, as provided under section 5(1)(h) of the *Youth Justice Act 1997*:-

> *"any sanctioning of a youth is to be designed so as to give him or her an opportunity to develop a sense of social responsibility and otherwise to develop in beneficial and socially acceptable ways".*

The imposition of a fine not exceeding 10 penalty units is not consistent to overall

28 Murray Street Hobart TAS 7000
P (03) 6234 4133
info@lst.org.au
www.lst.org.au ABN 79 607 763 856

objectives set out in the *Youth Justice Act* 1997 for dealing with juvenile offenders.[1]

Proposed Section 34J

It is difficult to comment on the imposition of storage requirements when these have not been specified to date. It is unclear why this is not included, similar to those detailed under Section 87 of the *Firearms Act* 1996 (Tas). Any storage requirements will need to be widely publicised and ideally placed in any revised bill to avoid member businesses and other relevant entities needing to consult various points of information simply to comply with the relevant law.

Proposed Regulation 7A

The inclusion of exemptions for knives relating to the preparation and consumption of food is welcomed given the difficulty that would be faced without it.

Yours faithfully



LUKE RHEINBERGER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

[1] See, eg, *LS v State of Tasmania* [2026] TASCCA 3, which is a recent example of the application of the sentencing principles under the *Youth Justice Act 1997*.

28 Murray Street Hobart TAS 7000
P (03) 6234 4133
info@lst.org.au
www.lst.org.au ABN 79 607 763 856