Subject: Police Offences Amendment (Knives and prohibited weapons) Bill 2026

Thank you for inviting The Arms Collectors Guild of Tasmania Inc. to provide a submission to the knives & prohibited weapons draft legislation.

John Green — President

Andrew Harvey — Secretary

13th of August 2026

1. The Guild supports the proposed controls placed on the purchasing of knives by minors in this legislative draft. The authors, both of whom have retail experience in the firearm industry, have previous experience retailing knives for hunters & rural users and operated under the guideline of not selling knives to minors.

2. We support evidence-based and meaningful measures that are designed to address violent offending and the unlawful possession of dangerous weapons in the public arena. However, we note the poor result of similar Victorian legislation on machete's which appears to be as a result of violent juvenile gang behaviour. Previous research tabled at a forum on dangerous weapons legislation indicated that the majority of knife crime in Tasmania was by a perpetrator armed with a kitchen knife, the easiest item to obtain not machete's.

3. We believe this proposed legislation has unintended consequence for collectors, historical organisations, RSL's and museums in that they have been ignored under section 14F part 2 Prohibited Weapons – exempt class of persons. This will have unintended consequences and the loss of historically significant items throughout Tasmania.

4. We propose that collecting organisations, historical organisations, RSL's and museums be included in Section 14F part 2 as exempt from section 14F part 1. The failure to do so will adversely affect the preservation and display of Tasmania's military and civilian heritage while having no effect on criminal behaviour.

5. We believe that the definition of Prohibited Weapon under section 14E part (a) a machete; is not concise. There are a range of historically similar items with diverse shapes and ethnic names from regions throughout the world and many of these have been adopted for Australian & Commonwealth military service. This creates confusion as to what is actually prohibited and the risk of unintended items being included.

6. To avoid doubt, this should not be left to later interpretation, and we recommend that a machete should be defined. To define a Machete as a broad bladed knife would also define other items such as a bayonet, sword or

even a butcher's cleaver. We believe this would broaden the captured items dramatically. Hence the need for a precise and acceptable definition of a machete

7. The following pictures show a diverse array of knives and bayonets complete with identifying name, usually of ethnic tribal definition. This illustrates the difficulty in identification of a machete and provides examples of historical military items held by collectors. The majority of these items have been used in military service and are identified with military markings. Many of these items were brought back after military service by veterans and now reside within Museums and collections and a failure to exempt them will see a loss in historically significant and valuable items.



Smachet



Billhook





Rare & valuable Australian WW2 Paratrooper machete bayonet



Lord Elcho's Pattern 1872 Bayonet

8. There are proposed exemptions under Section 14F subsection (2) (c) for agricultural professionals to possess a prohibited weapon. Hunters in our experience also use these items in the course of their pursuits. We believe a licensed hunter should be able to possess them. They already hold a Firearm Licence and a permit to hunt and this would be adequate in a Public Safety sense to also possess a machete style knife for butchering their quarry

9. There is no exemption for Australian Defence Force personnel - including cadets, and those on exchange/deployment from overseas forces. We believe that this should be included.

10. There is no mention of compensation of prohibited items and we believe that there should be fair compensation for items that are prohibited and can no longer be owned or sold. A compensation scheme should include fair payment for the item surrendered, be widely publicised, have reasonable timeline for the surrender of the item and historical items should be preserved from destruction by diversion to collecting organisations.

11. Conclusion:

A. The Guild believes collectors, historical organisations, museums, RSL's Australian Defence Force and overseas exchange/deployment personnel that own/issued these historical civilian & military objects for use, display, preservation, commemoration and education should be an exempt class in this legislation.

B. That this legislation be drafted with appropriate safeguards, that it targets criminal behaviour without affecting legitimate owners who are preserving Tasmania's history.

C. That fair compensation be paid in a timely manner

D. That the definition of machete be included in the legislation

E. That licenced hunters be included as an exempt class



WW2 RAAF survival Machete with sharpened tip



WW2 Australian Machete