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THIS ISSUE:

Draft Firearms Amendment (Community Safety) Amendment Bill 2023

Submissions close 5pm on Friday, 17 March 2023. Visit www.fas.police.tas.gov.au/firearms-2023 to access the submission form.

A message from Firearms Services

After working through the last three COVID-19 impacted years, it is nice to see life turning to a more normal state.

Club events should be back to operating without too many restrictions. Firearms Services are glad to have managed the major renewal year, in which we experienced an extraordinary amount of licence renewals, with minimal disruption to business, licence holders and stakeholders.

We appreciate that you, as facilitators of shooting events, training and competition, have an important role to play in ensuring your Club members are safe.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind Club officials of their obligation in relation to reporting unacceptable and unsafe behaviour of members.

Our focus is safety for everyone. If you have any feedback, please contact us on our website:

www.fas.police.tas.gov.au/contact-us

Best wishes,

Claudia Taylor | A/Manager, Firearms Services
Safe Transport, Safe Use and Safe Storage of Firearms

Non-member Club Exemptions

The Act allows for community members to apply for an exemption to use a firearm at an approved club or range, subject to conditions.

Notably, exemption is valid for a period of six (6) months only.

Section 155(1B) of the Firearms Act 1996 (the Act) states that once you have made and signed a written application (an exemption), you are authorised to possess or use a firearm approved for the use at that club or range, for the purpose of participating in **one** shooting activity on **one** day at that club or range.

Alternatively, you must be a **current** member of a shooting organisation that conducts competition or activities involving the type of firearm you wish to own.

Clubs, galleries and ranges have a responsibility to ensure all completed exemption applications are sent to Firearm Services.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

A minor **cannot** apply for a Club Exemption.

Applications for Club Exemptions must be submitted to Firearms Services as soon as practicable or no later than 14 days after the application is made.

Firearms Services Contact Details:

Phone:	(03) 6173 2720
Email:	Firearms.Services@police.tas.gov.au
Online:	www.fas.police.tas.gov.au
In Person:	Hobart City Police Station Liverpool Street Hobart

Have your say - Firearms Amendment (Community Safety) Bill 2023

Feedback has been invited from all members of the community.

Consultation runs from 1 February to 17 March 2023.

Firearms Services encourages all Clubs to ensure they provide a submission on the Amendment Bill currently out for consultation. A summary of the proposed changes are:

- refusal and cancellation of firearms licence for participants in outlaw motorcycle gangs.
- Recognition of toys as firearms when used in specific crimes.
- Extend auditing obligations for the Auditor-General to firearms disposal to enhance auditing of guns and gun parts.
- Extend permanent firearms amnesty to enable firearm parts and ammunition be surrendered.
- Phasing in a re-classification of lever-action shotguns inline with the National Firearms Agreement.
- Automatic loss of all firearms for offences involving possession of shortened firearms.
- Increased capacity for Tasmania Police to issue infringement notices to enforce the safe storage of firearms.
- Include offences for the unlawful possession of digital blueprints for the manufacture of firearms, firearm parts and sound suppressors using modern technology such as electronic milling or '3D printing'.
- Provide an exception to the application of the Act for corrections officers similar to the possession and use exemption of police officers.
- Provide a limited possession offences exception to the application of the Act for persons handling firearms and ammunition in the course of their duties as State Service employees.



How do you make a submission?

All written submissions on the draft *Firearms Amendment (Community Safety) Bill 2023* must be received no later than **5pm, Friday 17 March 2023**.

Submissions will be received via email or by post.

Email:

Strategy.Support@dpfem.tas.gov.au

Post:

Department of Police, Fire & Emergency Management
Strategy & Support
GPO Box 308
Hobart, TAS 7001

Publishing of submissions

The Tasmanian Government is committed to ensuring that public consultation processes are open and transparent and that Departments apply a consistent approach to the publication of submissions.

This commitment reflects community expectations for having access to information that informs Government decision-making on major policy matters.

All submissions will be published, after consultation at:
<http://fas.police.tas.gov.au/firearms-2023/>

IMPORTANT NOTE:

No personal information other than an individual's name or the organisation making the submission will be published, unless the submitter has requested the submissions be confidential.

Information to note:

- your name will be published unless you request otherwise.
- In the absence of a clear indication of request to be confidential, the Department will treat the submission as public.
- Copyright in submissions remains with the author (s), not with the Tasmanian Government.
- The Department will **not** publish in whole or in part, submissions containing defamatory or offensive materials.

If your submission includes information that could enable the identification of other individuals then either all or parts of the submission will not be published.