

The Honourable Felix Ellis
Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management



Subject: Submission to the Firearm Amendments Consultation

Dear Mr Ellis,

Please find attached our submission to the Firearm Amendments Draft to the Tasmanian Firearm Act 1996. Our submission is represented in order of the proposed amendments. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions.

Yours Sincerely,

John Green	Andrew Harvey
President	Secretary

Section 4 - Firearm Sound Suppressor

The definition in this proposal – ‘any implement designed to suppress the sound caused by discharge of a firearm’, is not incorrect as some items – historically, are used to suppress such noise which are not designed for this use. Such items include plastic drink containers, oil filters even wadded cloth, or a pillow will work to a degree in a reduction of the muzzle blast noise.

Some items such as barrel tuning devices and blast diverters may also have the effect of reducing the muzzle blast noise as a side-affect however this is not the designed aim of these devices though is noticeable at range events.

As no stated standard is included for the degree of suppressing – the question is at what level of sound reduction is it deemed to be suppressed? It may be deduced that this will be any sound reduction! We believe that this should be addressed for the firearm owning communities confidence.

Section 6, 7, and 8 - Lever Action Shotguns

Recently media publicity proclaiming the lever action shotgun as new technology is totally incorrect as the **Winchester Model 1887** and **Winchester Model 1901** are lever actioned shotguns designed by American gun designer John Browning and produced by Winchester and are now one hundred and thirty five years old.

There does not appear to be evidence of the illegal use of these lever action shotguns to justify the attention they are now being accorded and – in our opinion, they have not been a successful product anyway hence their rarity in the collectors market.

From experience within the industry the authors has found them to be a poor design with some recent models in particular requiring specialist after market attention to improve the loading sequence so as to prevent cyclic malfunction and loading jams.

This is apparent by the comments of owners of such firearms and the overwhelming preference to other shotgun designs such as double barrelled guns. These can be manipulated very quickly by an experienced user without the

poor design and slow reloading of the lever action. Is this proposal then as the result of more hype than reality? – we believe it is! And we disagree that changing its category will do anything to improve public safety as claimed.

Section 11 Carrying firearms or toy firearms with criminal intent

While supporting the concept of action against a perpetrator using a toy or an imitation firearm for criminal ends, we have reservations that this proposal may be used in a broader way than intended if implemented - as this has occurred in previous legislative changes. This may rake in those innocent members of the public who have no intention of committing a crime. We believe that this change requires further examination and clarification.

Section 14 Possession of Digital Blueprints

While we understand the reasoning behind this proposal, members have been concerned that it may unintentionally be used against them. Our concern is for the member who possesses a digital copy of a reference book or document that includes firearm or firearm parts technical drawings or measurements. Many of our members are avid researchers and collectors of such items.

These are incapable of being used to manufacture firearms which require a manufacturing technical package which includes more information than that which is included in these technical drawings . The Term 'digital blueprint' is not specific enough by the definition proposed and be altered to exclude those electronic technical drawings not used in manufacture and are included in many historical reference documents.

digital blueprint means any type of digital (or electronic) reproduction of a technical drawing of the design of an object