



TASMANIAN
FIELD & GAME
ASSOCIATION INC.

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Firearms Amendment (Community Safety) Bill 2023.

To whom it may concern

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I write on behalf of the Tasmanian Field and Game Association Inc. in my capacity as State Secretary. The TFGA is a state-based organisation of community members largely involved in competition clay target competition at three member clubs: Penguin Clay Target Club Inc., Northern Midlands Sporting Clays Inc. and Derwent Valley Field and Game Inc. The TFGA is affiliated with Sporting Clays Australia which is the premier sporting clays fraternity in Australia, and which has international competitive affiliation and recognition.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Firearms Amendment (Community Safety) Bill 2003. The Tasmanian Field and Game Association Inc. supports the draft Bill and the proposed amendments as presented. In this respect, we fully support responsible firearm ownership and use right across the community. This includes legislation designed to improve the safe, practical and responsible delivery of our sport to members and the community in general.

One aspect noted during our membership consultation phase that may be worthy of further discussion between our organisations, although outside the scope of this submission, is the seemingly lack of legislative and punitive provisions for those unlicensed (firearms) criminals who burgle the residents/businesses of licensed firearms owners and who steal and convert these firearms for illegitimate and/or criminal purposes. Our members feel it is not uncommon to see and hear of prosecutorial situations where these types of offences are essential intertwined with global sentencing options with other crimes that in our considered view, tend to lessen the seriousness of the crimes and reduce the deterrent aspect of punishment to would-be thieves.

Our members invest heavily in sporting equipment such as firearms and ammunition and this investment significantly adds to the local and national economy in various ways. We feel there ought to be a much greater legislative deterrent emphasis on firearms theft, which in totality should lessen the risk, both actual and perceived in terms of unlawful firearms use. As an organisation, we would welcome the opportunity to advance these discussions in the event future amendments are tabled and of course, any other related matters with your agency representatives when mutually agreeable.

Once again, we thank you for the opportunity to comment. Should you have any concerns whatsoever, please contact me via the email and telephone as listed above.

Yours sincerely

Brett Smith
Secretary
Tasmanian Field & Game Association Inc.