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**From:** Patrick Dwyer [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 10 February 2023 5:51 PM  
**To:** Strategy Support  
**Subject:** HPE CM: Submission regarding Firearms Amendment Bill 2023

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To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to object vociferously to some of the proposed amendments included in this bill. With the exception of making it an offence for people with criminal records to possess a firearm this Bill is an example of authoritarianism gone too far. Law abiding Australian citizens should have more access to firearms. Firearm use and safety should be taught in schools. If anything the licensing regime should be stricter with more background checks and safety courses to be run prior to an individual obtaining a licence. At this point however someone who obtains said license should have access to a wider variety of both semi and fully automatic weapons. If a police officer is allowed to carry an automatic weapon a law abiding respected member of the community who has passed rigorous background and licensing checks should be have the same privilege. Veterans and defense forces personnel should be completely excluded from any firearm legislation and should have complete exemption from the rules in reward for their duty to their country. I submit that "categories" cease to apply to various classifications of firearms. You are either licensed and deemed acceptable to hold a firearm or you are not. The increasing complexity and authoritarianism applied to firearm legislation in no way prevents criminal enterprise. These proposals largely will only harm individuals who follow the rules. Please scrap this bill in its entirety or liberalise the bill for the benefit of law abiding gun owners.

Regards,

Patrick Dwyer  
[REDACTED]