

**From:** Maureen [REDACTED]  
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**To:** Strategy Support  
**Subject:** HPE CM: Submission on the draft Firearms Amendment (Community Safety) Bill 2023

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**Categories:** Firearms Bill 2023

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**The disproportionate number of firearms incidents in Tasmania is evidence that there should be:**

- **more rigorous assessment of 'fitness' to hold a license,**
- **fewer firearms licensed**
- **a low limit on the number of firearms issued to a person AND a property**
- **harsher penalties for breaches**
- **more control & enforcement of firearms licenses, dealing & possession**
- **far more rigorous attention given to evidence of the requirements for the granting and extension of licenses**
- **deletion of the provision for permits for minors, which supports the 'gun culture' view of firearms**

**The amendments are only very flimsy bandaids on legislation which needs significant tightening. The whole firearms licensing & oversight is far too lax. The following should be considered if the safety of the community is seriously being considered:**

- **There are far too many firearms in the Tasmanian community and far too little enforcement & control. There should be more restriction on the number of firearms possessed, the number of applications & renewals apparently 'rubber stamped'. There should also be more frequent & strict oversight of licenses & dealers.**
- **There should be a restriction on the number of firearms owned for any of the approved purposes. My experience as a farm owner shows there is no reason for more than one or at most two firearms to be owned for the purposes of managing livestock or controlling vermin. Not the 5 I have seen brought in to a Police Station by a man for license renewal supposedly for these purposes - all having breached license conditions. He apparently received no penalty.**

**Specific suggestions:**

**Section 24 - penalty for purchasing a firearm from an unlicensed dealer should be greater than 50 penalty points. Also, there should be provision of a penalty for someone claiming they were given (not purchased) a firearm by anyone.**

**Section 26 - penalty for use of a firearm for purposes other than specified on the license should be significantly higher - including incarceration.**

**Section 28 & 29 applications for & granting of licence - in other jurisdictions there are character provisions relating to applications - these should be included. The 'fit and proper person' provision needs to be extensively reviewed to require persons convicted of certain crimes to be ineligible to apply for, give up & not possess firearms. The provision for these matters to be reconsidered each time an application to renew a license is received should be given more force in its enforcement.**

Section 31, 32, 33 - Restrictions - applicants should provide evidence of a genuine reason for holding a licence FOR ALL categories of firearm.

Section 48 - Compliance - needs far more extensive penalties.

Section 57 - Change in particulars - penalties should be greater & tease out more the types of change involved. I suspect this is one area which facilitates firearms being readily available in the community.

Division 2 - 'information' - penalties should be increased.

Section 102 & 103 & 105 - Delivery & conveying of firearms & ammunition - penalties should be increased.

Division 3 - penalties should be significantly increased.

Regards  
Maureen Robinson