



Submission cover sheet

Inquiry into the Firearms (Public Safety) Amendment Bill 2026

Submission number: 017

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Dear Sirs

This is my submission to the Inquiry into the Firearms (Public Safety) Amendment Bill 2026

I am Vincent Oldani, Australian citizen,

I would be happy to talk to the committee at a hearing.

Who I am

I am an enthusiast law-abiding collector of WWI / WW2 firearms, who likes to shoot all of my oldies, like my 1915 SMLE from the Gallipoli era - with my mates in competitions run at the SSAA Mount Majura range. The new law will prevent me (and my mates sharing the same passion) to continue doing so and will send to meaningless destruction a significant part of our historical and cultural heritage.

My submission

My intention is not to copy-paste material from the SSAA or use AI-generated arguments.

I am also not arguing that the ACT should ignore what NSW has already implemented.

I simply want to advocate 2 sensible and reasonable adjustments to the proposed new law.

Those 2 adjustments aim to:

- protect the community and
- save taxpayer's dollars by not including irrelevant firearms in the proposed buyback and
- appease our law-abiding shooters.

Adjustment 1: excludes 'Low-Risk Firearms' (see definition) from the 10-firearm limit

Adjustment 2: exclude firearms designed before 1945 from the definition of a straight pull rifle.

In more details:

Adjustment 1 – Exclude 'Low-Risk Firearms' from the 10-firearms limit

I understand that the purpose of the 10-firearms limit is to prevent the accumulation of lethal firearms that could fall into the hands of organised crime or violent extremists.

If that is the goal, then **firearms that do not pose a meaningful risk to community safety should be disregarded for the purpose of assessing the limit.**

Proposed definition for an excluded 'Low Risk Firearm'.

This definition has been designed so that the excluded low-risk firearms can be easily identified by the registry based on the information they already receive when they receive a Permit to Acquire.

"Excluded Low Risk Firearms shall mean, subject to the making a regulation amending the present definition, any firearm included in at least one of the following categories:

- *Any firearms in the following calibres: BB – 177 Air – 20 Air – 22 Air – 25 Air – 22 Short - 22 LR.*

- *Single-shot rifles.*
- *Category B rifles of a model designed before 1945, identified as such by the ACT Firearm Registry”.*

Explanations: Why are these firearms low-risk?

Low-power firearms (e.g., air rifles and the famous 22LR)

High-power rifles used in the Bondi attack involve calibres such as .308 Winchester, delivering up to 3,600 joules of energy.

By comparison, a 22 LR never exceeds 260 joules, and most often less than 200 joules. Air guns are even a lot less than this.

These firearms are widely used by farmers for small pest control and y sport shooting and have extremely limited lethality. 22LR and air guns are a joy to shoot due to non-existent recoil but they are definitely not the weapon for a mass shooting.

Single-shot rifles:

These are usually heavy, cumbersome target rifles designed for slow fire from a bench-rest — such as the legendary Australian-made Omark 44. They are a joy to shoot for the sport shooters looking for old school accuracy, but they are not suitable for rapid fire and therefore not practical for mass shootings.

Another category of single shot rifles consists of muzzle-loaders from the 19th century: again, those oldies and their replicas are a joy to shoot but not the kind of firearms criminals and extremists are interested into!

Cat B rifles designed before 1945:

Their age, considerable length/weight and lack of modern features make them unattractive for criminal use.

While a joy to shoot at the range for History enthusiasts who know their quirks, they are irrelevant to organised crime and violent extremists.

Excluding them from the limit would also prevent the senseless destruction of valuable pieces of our cultural heritage.

The overwhelming majority of those rifles are well known models (Lee-Enfields, Mosin Nagant, Mauser 98K etc.) that the registry can easily identify from the information provided in the Permit to Acquire. In case of doubts, the applicant will be able to submit additional information.

Adjustment 2: Definition of straight-Pull Rifles — just add “Designed After 1945” in the definition.

The new law reclassifies straight-pull rifles into Category C, effectively making them inaccessible for most shooters.

To do this, the law created a definition of “straight-pull action rifle.”

All I propose is adding the following 3 words in the definition provided by the law: “*designed after 1945*”

Why?

Straight-pull rifles have existed since the late 19th and early 20th centuries—for example the Austrian Steyr Model 1895 and the Swiss G/K1911 and K31.

These older models are common in Australia, but ammunition is not widely available, and they are of no interest to criminals or extremists.

By adding “*designed after 1945*” to the definition of prohibited straight-pull rifles, these historical firearms could remain in Category B, where they belong.

Any firearm expert will confirm that, practically, they do not fire any faster than modern bolt-action rifles, and destroying them would unnecessarily erase historical artifacts.

Drafting consideration

For the amendment No1:

52A Authority conferred by licence—limitation on number of firearms possessed or used by licensees

(1) A licence that authorises the licensee to possess or use a firearm is subject to the following limitations (if any) on the number of firearms that may be possessed or used by the licensee under the licence:

*(a) for a licensee who possesses or uses a firearm for a relevant genuine reason—
not more than the greater of—*

- (i) 10 firearms, **disregarding any Excluded Low Risk Firearm***;*
- (ii) etc*

“Excluded Low Risk Firearms shall mean, subject to the making a regulation amending this definition, any firearm included in at least one of the following categories:

- Any firearms in the following calibres: BB – 177 Air – 20 Air – 22 Air – 25 Air – 22 Short - 22 LR.
- Single-shot rifles.
- Category B rifles of a model designed before 1945, identified as such by the ACT Firearm Registry”.

For the amendment No2:

straight pull repeating action, in relation to a firearm, means a repeating action firearm **designed after 1945** in which the bolt need not be rotated to open or close the action but is reciprocated by a straight backward and forward motion of the user’s hand.

Conclusion

The 10-firearms limit would not have prevented the Bondi massacre and there are arguments the limit should be removed all together, especially as not all states will adopt it.

If it has to be adopted, it should only target the most lethal firearms. Accordingly, the most sensible approach would be that the 10-firearms limit should only apply to category C, D and H firearms. That would be so simple, and yet, logical.

The suggestions I made above are not that ‘radical’ and basically only make minor amendments to the proposed law.

I hope they can be considered and accepted. I am happy to further explain them in a hearing.