



# Submission cover sheet

## Inquiry into the Firearms (Public Safety) Amendment Bill 2026

Submission number: 009

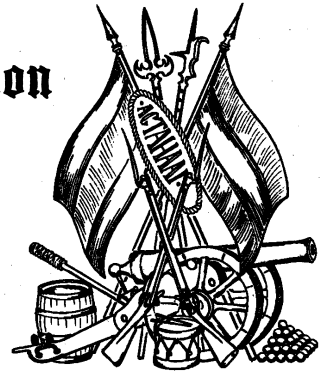
Submitter: ACT Antique and Historical Arms Association Inc

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# **A.C.T Antique and Historical Arms Association**

(Incorporated)

Box 3171 Mail Delivery Centre, Belconnen ACT 2617



The Standing Committee on Legal Affairs  
Legislative Assembly for the ACT  
LACommitteeLegal@parliament.act.gov.au

Dear Committee Members

## **INQUIRY INTO FIREARMS (PUBLIC SAFETY) AMENDMENT BILL 2026 (the Bill)**

### **Background of ACT Antique and Historical Arms Association Inc (the Association)**

We are a serious government approved collecting group that has been operating in the ACT since 1966.

The Association's main objectives are to promote an interest in the collection, restoration and preservation of antique, historical and collectable arms and related items.

Our postal address is shown above; email address is [actaandhaa@gmail.com](mailto:actaandhaa@gmail.com).

The Association is available to speak to the Assembly Committee at any hearing.

### **The proposed new law in the Bill in question**

Schedule 3, Item 2, Column 3, Paragraph (b) which relates to centre-fire rifles (other than self loading, straight pull repeating action, self opening action or self closing action) with magazine capacity of not more than 10 rounds.

This amendment to Schedule 3 will restrict possession of relevant centre-fire rifles to those with a magazine capacity of no more than 10 rounds.

### **Issue**

The Association has no objection to this in regard to people who meet the "relevant genuine reason" requirement of section 52A(4).

However, it strongly opposes limiting the magazine capacity of firearms, particularly those manufactured before 1900, held by licenced firearm collectors.

Whilst the Bill has given consideration to firearm collectors by not limiting the number of firearms held on Collector Licences {section 52A(1)(b)}, its overarching proposal to prohibit all firearms with a magazine capacity of more than 10 rounds will have a serious impact on firearm collectors of antique Winchester repeating rifles and some other American repeating rifles. Surely this was not intended. They are not high risk firearms.

Dating back to the 1860's, these rifles all have under barrel tube magazines with a capacity of between 11 to 15 rounds. Those made before 1900 all use weak, low pressure black powder ammunition which is no longer commercially available. The magazines on these guns cannot be removed without completely dismantling the firearm. They do not have quick release magazines. Any attempt to fire modern ammunition in such rifles could blow up the gun and cause serious injury to the shooter.

At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, firearm manufacturers commenced using smokeless powder (high pressure) in their firearms and, to compensate for this, barrel strength had to be increased. These firearms of similar design to those mentioned above, but using smokeless powder, were made by Winchester for example until 1941.

They are nevertheless highly collectable. Those used by Australian State/Territory Police forces early in the twentieth century are particularly desirable.

Prohibiting these firearms will significantly diminish much of our history and heritage. Many of these firearms are extremely valuable, for example a Winchester Model 1866 rifle with Australian heritage was sold by Australian Fine Arms & Collectables at its auction in Melbourne on 22/23 November 2025 for \$50,000 plus commission and GST (Item No 743).

Any buyback of these firearms will be detrimental to the tax payer without any benefit to public safety. Some collections are worth 6 figure sums and more.

Other important factors are that any firearms held on a Collector Licence must not be fired and that ammunition for such firearms must not be held. They also have stringent storage requirements.

To our knowledge, none of these antique firearms has been used in a crime.

### **Recommendation**

The Association requests that these rifles held on a Collector Licence be exempt from the restriction on magazine capacity limits.

Yours sincerely

Secretary  
23 February 2026