



Submission cover sheet

Inquiry into Legislation on proposed firearms reform

Submission number: 084

Submitter: Name Withheld

Date authorised for publication: 13 April 2026

Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory.

Inquiry into the Firearms (Public Safety) Amendment Bill 2026

Dear Committee Members,

1. I make this submission as a Licenced Shooter and member of the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (SSAA) Military Firearms Club. However, as a relative newcomer to Club Shooting in the ACT, after a 40 plus year break, I feel that other Club Members who have a much stronger association and greater involvement with the Shooting Clubs in Canberra, are better able than I, to articulate the finer points and the detail of the impact of any potential legislative changes foreshadowed.

2. However, my concerns are with the process of how we have arrived at this point, in that:

Primarily, the inference that Licenced Shooters as a group are in some way responsible for the Islamic based Terrorist attack in Bondi late last year. I deeply resent the implication that as licenced firearms owner for many years, qualified ADF Marksman with over 40 years full and part-time service, the latter in a high security environment, that; I am a somehow lesser member of society who needs to be subject to further scrutiny and greater regulation to atone for the failure of the proper authorities in the State of NSW to correctly administer their existing laws.

Secondly, I feel that using this tragedy to leverage political gain, is in my opinion a cynical exercise of a government caught flat footed and scrambling for an excuse. To me, this also demonstrates a callous disregard for the victims and their loved ones when the root cause of the tragedy is not every other Licenced Firearm owner in the Country. I therefore believe that there is no logical reason to implement changes akin to those foreshadowed in NSW, which would by all accounts lead to zero improvement in public safety.

Thirdly, the somewhat hysterical reporting in the press and on social media using the slogan 'Getting guns off the Streets' makes great copy, stirs the emotions, probably makes some people feel safe and gives the impression of action. The reality, I believe, is somewhat different. The 'Guns on the Streets' are in the hands of Criminals and **not** licenced shooters. **In this regard, the foreshadowed legislation will have zero effect on public safety.**

3. Further on public safety, the National Firearms Agreement (NFA) has effectively dealt with the licencing shortcomings in existence prior to the Port Arthur Massacre in 1996. This is demonstrated by the decline in Firearms related crime, despite that increase in licenced shooters, commensurate with the population increase, and firearms numbers.

4. Administration, The Firearms Registry in the ACT is unique in that every applicant must have direct face to face contact with the Registry staff . This is to be applauded.

5. In conclusion, I fervently hope that the enlightened approach by ACT Policing through the ACT legislature will continue and in so doing work with the cohort of the Firearms users be they Sporting shooters, and others in the industry, such as; wildlife conservation, environmental protection, hunting, agriculture and other interested parties, to provide the best outcome for all concerned.

6. For your consideration.

Yours Faithfully

10 April 2026