



Submission cover sheet

Inquiry into Legislation on proposed firearms reform

Submission number: 078

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From:
To: [LA Committee - Legal](#)
Subject: Re: proposed Firearms (Public Safety) Amendment Bill 2026.
Date: Friday, 10 April 2026 2:31:22 PM

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Dear all,

I wish to make the following submission to the Committee regarding the proposed Firearms (Public Safety) Amendment Bill 2026.

Ref: New Section 52A

I hear it said that this legislation is not targeting lawful firearms owners. In target shooting parlance I suggest that the Legislative Assembly 'adjust its sights', because you are hitting the wrong target.

The idea that limiting the number of firearms that a licensee may use or possess is somehow having a measurable positive effect on public safety is unproven.
Link: <https://sifa.net.au/more-registered-firearms-do-not-increase-public-safety-risk/>

Until December 2025 there was no issue with the numbers of firearms legally held by sportsmen and sportswomen in the ACT.

That the reduction in the number held by a licenced individual improves public safety is both unproven and insulting to the many licenced firearms owners in the ACT. None of this legislation will address the issues of criminals using firearms to harm people.

Sporting shooters are amongst the most vetted and regulated private individuals in the ACT.

At any time a user may lose their licence should they misbehave and be determined by the ACT Police to no longer be a suitable person. This would be a disaster for a sporting shooter.

Sporting shooters, like myself, spend a great many hours, even years, and a lot of money in the pursuit of their sport.

In my case I compete locally, nationally, and internationally with a variety of historic firearms in several disciplines.

These all require a specific type of firearm in order to compete. Many of these (some over 100 years old) are difficult to procure in good order and prone to failure. As a result it is advantageous to keep spare examples, to ensure that a failure does not ruin the chance to compete in an upcoming competition.

Bringing in an arbitrary limit would not bring any increase to public safety.

There would however be a negative impact to the ability of people like myself being able to compete effectively in my chosen sport. This would greatly impact my quality of life.

I do understand that there are some people who are very uncomfortable with the idea of private firearms ownership, and they are even more distressed at the idea that someone may legally own a large number of firearms.

But, this discomfort does not equate to an actual loss of safety for the public.

The target shooting community is diverse and widespread in the greater ACT community. We are very concerned about safety and actively encourage people to ensure that they comply with all legal regulations and safety protocols at all times.

All firearms are stored securely in appropriate safes which are subject to inspection by ACT Police at any time. In the event of a firearms owner's residence being broken into there is no chance that a burglar could simply walk away with an armful of firearms. This is because of the current storage regulations and compliance by the owners.

To be clear, I, like the vast majority of sporting shooters, am 100% in favour of keeping firearms out of the hands of those who should not have them.

Sporting shooters just want to compete in their sport, exactly like any other sporting person in the ACT.

The monies that would be spent in a buyback of firearms from licenced sportsmen and sportswomen could be better spent in providing more resources for the ACT Firearms Registry and ACT Police to maintain and enforce the current regulations and therefore public safety.

Perhaps we would get more benefit if we were to enthusiastically enforce the current regulations and resource our Police appropriately, instead of spending a great deal of to address an issue that either doesn't exist or is vanishingly small.

I would welcome the opportunity to provide more information or answer questions from the committee.

Yours sincerely,