FIREARMS AMENDMENT (STRENGTHENING FIREARMS SECURITY) BILL 2026

This Public Bill originated in the House of Assembly, and, having this day passed, is now ready for presentation to the Legislative Council for its concurrence.

LAURA ROSS, *Clerk of the House*
10 September 2026

(Brought in by the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management, the Honourable Felix Ashton Ellis)

A BILL FOR

Amendments: clauses 19, 20(x3), 28, 36, 51, 57, 63 and New clauses A, B, C and D.

An Act to amend the *Firearms Act 1996* and the *Sentencing Act 1997*

Be it enacted by Her Excellency the Governor of Tasmania, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and House of Assembly, in Parliament assembled, as follows:

The Legislative Council has this day Agreed to this Bill with Amendments

Clerk of the Council
19.11.2026

PART 1 – PRELIMINARY

1. Short title

This Act may be cited as the *Firearms Amendment (Strengthening Firearms Security) Act 2026*.

2. Commencement

The provisions of this Act commence on a day or days to be proclaimed.

(i) an Australian citizen or a New Zealand citizen; or

(ii) a permanent resident of Australia whose genuine reason for holding the licence is –

(A) primary production; or

(B) animal population control; or

(C) animal welfare; or

(D) business or employment; or

(E) another genuine reason prescribed for the purposes of this subparagraph.

(c) by omitting from subsection (2)(b) "in accordance with the requirements under the *Financial Transactions Reports Act 1988* of the Commonwealth that apply in respect of the opening of a bank account" and substituting "in an approved form";

(d) by omitting from subsection (2)(ca) "pistol" twice occurring and substituting "handgun";

CLAUSE 19

Page 28, paragraph (b), proposed new paragraph (d), subparagraph (ii), after sub-subparagraph (A).

Insert the following subparagraph.

(X) sport or target shooting; or

(ca) whether the person has a history of behaviour, whether in Tasmania or elsewhere, that would be considered family violence within the meaning of the *Family Violence Act 2004*, if the behaviour occurred in Tasmania;

(cb) whether the person has a history of behaviour, whether in Tasmania or elsewhere, that, in the Commissioner's opinion –

(i) is a recognised precursor or risk factor for family violence, within the meaning of the *Family Violence Act 2004*, including, but not limited to, coercion, intimidation, damage to property or increased police attendance; and

(ii) shows a pattern of escalation in the behaviour;

(e) by inserting the following paragraph after paragraph (d) in subsection (2):

(da) whether a relative of the person, or a member of the person's

CLAUSE 20

First amendment

Page 31, paragraph (e), proposed new paragraph (da), after "whether a".

Leave out "relative".

Insert instead "partner".

household, is not a fit and proper person;

(f) by inserting in subsection (2)(f) "recognised DVO," after "interim restraint order,";

(g) by inserting the following subsection after subsection (2):

(2A) For the purposes of this Act, a ***relative*** means a person who is in a significant relationship or caring relationship (within the meaning of the *Relationships Act 2003*) with the person, or who is the person's parent, grandparent or other lineal ancestor, child, grandchild or other lineal descendant, or brother or sister.

(h) by inserting the following paragraph after paragraph (a) in subsection (3):

(aab) within the period of 10 years before the application was made, has been convicted of –

(i) a family violence offence, within the meaning of the *Family Violence Act 2004*; or

(ii) an offence in another jurisdiction which, if committed in Tasmania,

Second amendment

Page 32, paragraph (g), proposed new subsection (2A).

Leave out that subsection.

Insert instead the following subsection.

(2A) For the purposes of subsection (2)(da), a partner of a person includes –

(a) a spouse of that person; or

(b) a person who is in a significant relationship, within the meaning of the *Relationships Act 2003*, with that person.

Third amendment

Same page, paragraph (h).

Leave out that paragraph.

Insert instead the following paragraph.

(h) by omitting paragraph (a) from subsection (3) and substituting the following paragraph:

(a) within the period of 10 years before the application was made, has been convicted of –

(i) a crime involving violence to another person, whether or not –

(A) that crime was committed in Tasmania or elsewhere; or

(B) the crime is a crime under a law of Tasmania; or

(ii) a family violence offence, within the meaning of the *Family Violence Act 2004*; or

(iii) an offence in another jurisdiction which, if committed in Tasmania, would be a family violence offence within the meaning of the *Family Violence Act 2004*; or

(2) A person who is a resident of another State or a Territory is not required to hold a Category H firearms licence if the person –

(a) is the holder of a corresponding licence; and

(b) is residing in Tasmania for a period of less than 3 months in a 12-month period; and

(c) is possessing or using a firearm for one of the following purposes:

(i) participation in an approved shooting competition relating to handguns;

(ii) business or employment as a firearms dealer, security agent or security guard;

(iii) any other approved purpose.

29. Section 56 amended (Corresponding licence)

Section 56 of the Principal Act is amended by omitting subsections (1), (2) and (3) and substituting the following subsections:

(1) A person is taken to hold a firearms licence under this Act if –

CLAUSE 28

Page 42, proposed new section 55, after subsection (2).

Insert the following subsection.

(3) A person who is taken to hold a firearms licence by virtue of subsection (1) or (2) must notify the Commissioner of the location, within the State, where the person intends to store the firearm –

(a) in an approved form; and

(b) at least 24 hours before or, if 24 hours' notice is not practicable in the circumstances, as soon as practicable and not later than 24 hours after –

(i) the person brings a firearm into the State under the deemed licence; or

(ii) the person changes the storage location for the firearm while the firearm is in the State.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 25 penalty units.

(b) by omitting from paragraph (b) "7 days" and substituting "24 hours".

36. Section 82A inserted

After section 82 of the Principal Act, the following section is inserted in Division 3:

82A. Inspection of firearms

A person in possession of a firearm must produce that firearm for inspection, at any reasonable time, when requested to do so by a police officer.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 20 penalty units.

37. Section 83 amended (Register of firearms)

Section 83 of the Principal Act is amended as follows:

(a) by inserting the following paragraph after paragraph (c) in subsection (2):

(ca) if the firearm is to be stored at a location other than the address of the registrant, the nominated storage location in respect of the firearm; and

(b) by omitting from subsection (3)(a) "Australian Crime Commission" and substituting "National Authority";

CLAUSE 36

Page 59. Leave out the clause.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 50 penalty units or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years, or both.

(4) A person who lends a firearm to another person must, if requested to do so by a police officer –

(a) tell the police officer where the firearm is located, as far as the person is aware; and

(b) tell the police officer the name of the person who has borrowed the firearm.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 50 penalty units or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years, or both.

(5) For the avoidance of doubt, a firearm that is lent to another person is in the possession of that other person for the purposes of this Act including, but not limited to, for the purpose of the number of firearms that the other person may possess.

52. Section 129 amended (Amnesty)

Section 129 of the Principal Act is amended as follows:

(a) by omitting from subsection (1)(a) "firearm sound" twice occurring;

CLAUSE 51

Page 78, proposed new section 121A, after subsection (3).

Insert the following subsection.

(YY) Subsections (2) and (3) do not apply to a person who lends a firearm, and to a person who borrows a firearm, if –

(a) the person lending the firearm, including the on-lending of the firearm, is only lending the firearm as part of an organised shooting activity (the ***relevant activity***) that is being held at an approved shooting gallery, approved rifle club, approved handgun shooting club or approved range (the ***relevant location***); and

(b) the following persons ensure that the firearm remains at the relevant location at all times during the relevant activity:

(i) the owner of the firearm;

(ii) if the owner of the firearm is not present during the relevant activity, a person (the ***nominated person***) who –

(A) is nominated, by the owner of the firearm, to be responsible for the firearm for the purposes of the relevant activity; and

(B) holds a licence or permit that authorises the person to have possession of the firearm; and

(c) each person borrowing the firearm during the relevant activity, whether from the owner of the firearm or the nominated person, holds a licence, permit or exemption, under this Act, that authorises the person to have possession of the firearm at the relevant location; and

(d) during or after the relevant activity, the firearm does not leave the relevant location, other than in the possession of –

(i) the owner of the firearm; or

(ii) a person who is nominated, by the owner of the firearm, to be responsible for the firearm on the completion of the relevant activity and who holds a licence or permit that authorises the person to have possession of the firearm.

(cb) the cancellation of an antique firearm permit under section 73F; or

(b) by inserting the following paragraphs after paragraph (db) in subsection (1):

(dc) the refusal to register an antique firearm under Part 6B; or

(dd) the cancellation, under Part 6B, of the registration of an antique firearm; or

(c) by omitting from subsection (1)(e) "rifle club" and substituting "rifle shooting club";

(d) by omitting from subsection (1)(e) "pistol" and substituting "handgun";

(e) by inserting in subsection (4)(a) "or section 73C" after "section 29(3)(e)".

58. Section 148 amended (Disclosure of certain information)

Section 148 of the Principal Act is amended as follows:

(a) by omitting from subsection (3) "pistol" and substituting "handgun";

(b) by omitting from subsection (4) "pistol" and substituting "handgun".

CLAUSE 57

Page 81, after paragraph (d).

Insert the following paragraph.

(XX) by omitting from subsection (4)(a) "criminal" twice occurring;

(a) a straight pull action firearm; or

(b) a button or lever release firearm.

(2) A licence holder is taken to hold the category of licence required for the licence holder to possess a relevant firearm if –

(a) immediately before section 14 or 15 was amended by the amending Act (the ***relevant amendment***), the licence holder –

(i) was the registrant in respect of the relevant firearm; and

(ii) held a firearms licence of a category that entitled the licence holder to lawfully possess the relevant firearm (the ***former licence category***); and

(b) as soon as practicable after the commencement of the relevant amendment, the licence holder applied for a firearms licence of a category that entitles the licence holder to lawfully possess the relevant firearm (the ***new licence category***); and

CLAUSE 63

Page 85, proposed new section 164A, subsection (2), paragraph (b), after "as soon as".

Insert "reasonably".

NEW CLAUSE A

To follow clause 6.

A. Section 3A amended (Meaning of "close associate" of firearms dealer or employee)

Section 3A(1) of the Principal Act is amended as follows:

(a) by omitting from paragraph (b) "the licence." and substituting "the licence; and";

(b) by inserting after paragraph (b) the following paragraph:

(c) is in a marriage or personal relationship with that holder or applicant, within the meaning of the *Relationships Act 2003*, or is related to that holder or applicant, and, by virtue of that relationship, is or will be able to exercise a significant influence over the holder or applicant.

NEW CLAUSE B

To follow clause 21.

B. Section 33A inserted

After section 33 of the Principal Act, the following section is inserted in Division 5:

33A. Restrictions on granting certain licences relating to primary production

(1) In this section –

associated primary production licence means a category C firearms licence that is granted as a result of a relevant primary production application;

relevant primary production application means an application for a category C firearms licence where –

(a) the genuine reason for possessing or using a firearm under the licence is primary production; and

(b) the applicant is an applicant to which section 40(a)(iv) applies.

(2) The Commissioner may only grant a relevant primary production application in respect of land to which the application relates (the ***relevant land***) if less than the following numbers of associated primary production licences are in force, under this Act, in respect of that land:

(a) if the relevant land is less than 800 hectares – 3 associated primary production licences;

(b) if the relevant land is 800 hectares or more – 5 associated primary production licences.

(3) Despite section 16, an associated primary production licence only authorises the holder of the licence –

(a) to possess and use one straight pull action firearm under the authority of the licence; and

(b) to use that firearm for the suppression of vertebrate pest animals on the relevant land in respect of the licence; and

(c) to use that firearm on the relevant land, if the holder has the written permission of the person who –

(i) owns, manages or leases the relevant land in respect of the licence; and

(ii) is regularly engaged in the business of primary production on that land.

(4) For the avoidance of doubt, an associated primary production licence does not authorise the holder of the licence –

(a) to use a firearm specified in section 16 other than a straight pull action firearm; and

(b) to use a straight pull action firearm for any purpose other than the suppression of vertebrate pest animals on the relevant land; and

(c) to use a straight pull action firearm on any land other than the relevant land in respect of the licence.

NEW CLAUSE C

To follow clause 23.

C. Section 40 amended (Requirements relating to primary production)

Section 40 of the Principal Act is amended by omitting paragraph (a) and substituting the following paragraph:

(a) be a person who –

(i) is regularly engaged in the business of primary production on land owned, managed or leased by the person; or

(ii) is a relative of a person referred to in subparagraph (i), within the meaning of section 29(2A), if the relative lives on, or near, the land referred to in that subparagraph; or

(iii) is regularly engaged as an employee of a person referred to in subparagraph (i); or

(iv) provides services, other than as an employee of a person referred to in subparagraph (i), in respect of land referred to in that subparagraph;

NEW CLAUSE D

To follow clause 43.

D **Section 108 amended (Inspection of firearms)**

Section 108 of the Principal Act is amended as follows:

(a) by omitting from subsection (1) "carries" and substituting "possesses".

(b) by omitting from subsection (4)(b) "produces" and substituting "if the person holds such a licence or permit, produces".