

Submission to Tasmanian Government Enquiry 2018- Gun Laws

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this enquiry.

I am interested in methods of regulating firearm use that minimise opportunistic access to guns.

The focus of my concerns is the actions of people who develop planned or impulsive intent to kill or wound.

I respect the need for farmers in Tasmania to control the impact of wildlife on the productivity of their farms, on which we depend.

I have read the relevant submissions on their behalf as well as submissions from people directly affected by illegal use of firearms.

My points are as follows

1. Relaxation of the '*in use*' provisions would increase opportunistic access to firearms. Documented levels of mental illness and distress in the community are high. Access to weapons is the next most critical issue - after intention - when there is a danger of harm to self or others. I oppose changes to 'in use' policy
2. Any form of 'glamorisation' of gun ownership or use risks increasing its recognition as a 'interest' or 'hobby' in Australia. Guns should remain a tool of trade for farmers. I believe we should seek to avoid 'creep' into the wider area of teaching groups of people to shoot, 'normalising' gun ownership and skills well outside of the group for whom these are essential tools of trade. I am opposed to group firearm training, competitive shooting, and access to '*military appearance*' guns.
3. '*Silent*' guns to me is a difficult issue. On balance, I have concerns about the use of noise reduction devices on the basis that I think the implications in a shooting attack where humans are the target outweigh the benefits outlined by Tasmanian farmers.

Thank you for accepting this submission and for your diligence in fully investigating this issue.

Christine Boyce

