



VAN DIEMEN PISTOL CLUB INCORPORATED

Correspondence: Hon. Secretary

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LAUNCESTON, TAS 7250

Todd Buttsworth
The Secretary
House of Assembly
Parliament House
Hobart 7000

Re: Firearms Law Reform

As per the invitation dated 2nd October 2018 the Van Diemen Pistol Club in conjunction with Tasmanian Pistol Association wish to make a submission for changes to be considered to the Firearms act 1996.

Participation Requirements Cat 'H'

That the requirement for a minimum of 6 participation attendances only be for a firearms licence holder that is endorsed with category 'H' and has at least one cat 'H' firearm registered to their licence.

Since 1996 it was agreed with the Commissioner's office and endorsed by the then Deputy Commissioner Jack Johnston that where a category 'H' licence was granted and the holder did not have registered a cat 'H' firearm, that the minimum participation would not be required. This would allow the licence holder to retain their cat 'H' endorsement without owning a firearm, thus reducing the number of firearms within the community.

This no longer seems to be the case, is the Government suggesting that we advise these licence holders to purchase firearm so they can keep their cat 'H' endorsement.

Recent advice from Firearms Services was that all Cat H holders would be required to complete this minimum participation or lose that endorsement to their licence.

This is based on the FAS interpretation of the NFA, and administrative interpretation not one addressed specifically in the Firearm Act however participation cards are based on number of registered firearms.

Thus how does a holder of cat 'H' licence comply with the participation requirements when they do not own a firearm but wish to remain a member of a sporting organisation, especially as many of these licence holders are coaches, trainers, referees, range officers and judges.

How do they perform their duties with no cat 'H' and why should they go to the trouble of registering and storing one for this purpose? It is our view that a legislative change should be made to give effect to our view; this is another case where the NFA, an agreement, not legislation, is deficient in providing sensible guidance.

Prohibited Pistol over .357 calibre

Currently pistols with a calibre over .357 may only be used in the disciplines of Western Action and Metallic Silhouette even though a number of national and international matches that use calibres up to and including .45 have existed prior to the 1996 act.

This restriction of only two matches allowed to use these calibres puts all Australian competitors participating in matches like IPSC at a distinct disadvantage and this restriction has no benefit to community safety as these calibre firearms are already available and exist currently.

At present a new cat 'H' licence holder, once they have completed their 6 month probation period, who wishes to participate in either western Action or Metallic Silhouette can only purchase a firearm up to .357 calibre for the second six month period of their licence. Then they have to apply for a commissioners exemption for a prohibited pistol to purchase a firearm with a calibre greater than .357. after the next 6 month period has elapsed.

This has the effect of having a greater number of firearms in the community due to the fact that the licence holder is prohibited from acquiring the right firearm for the match in the first place.

We thank you for this opportunity to contribute to this enquiry and would be available should you wish any further information.

Yours Sincerely

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AFFILIATIONS

Pistol Australia

Tasmanian Pistol Association

I.P.S.C. Australia

