



26 October 2018

The Secretary  
Legislative Council Select Committee – Firearms Law Reforms  
Legislative Council  
Parliament House  
HOBART TAS 7000

Dear Secretary

I am pleased to be allowed to make this submission to the Committee.

By way of introduction, I am a retired Federal public servant and Senior Naval Officer with more than 45 years public service. In all roles I was required to be familiar with and competent in the use of small arms of all calibres. I was trained in the operational use, care and maintenance and safety procedures for these weapons.

Prior to joining the Defence Force I lived on wheat and sheep properties in the Western Australian wheat belt and on the edge of the jungles in Manus Island; in these places I owned and used Point 22 and Point 303 rifles as well as double barrel shotguns to cull animals and protect stock. I believe I have a reasonable understanding of the capabilities, strength and weaknesses of the weapons that could be impacted by the possible variations to existing policy, and also the practical outcomes of the policy changes to the uses of those fire arms.

I submit that there is no need for sporting users of firearms in Australia to have access to automatic, high-powered, multi-shot weapons of any calibre. I believe there is no justification for sporting shooters nor rural shooters to be allowed the use of silenced or muffled weapons of any sort. My belief is that the National Firearms Agreement of the Australasian Police Ministers Council Special Firearms Meeting 10 May 1996 provided appropriate requirements on the issue of licences and that the deliberate inclusion of delays and waiting times for the issue of licences and permits was appropriate. I also believe that this Agreement set an appropriate licencing period for the issue of firearms licences.

I have heard that there is consideration of the possibility to expand the reason to own a Category C firearm and that this might include for the purposes of competition shooting. As a professional user of fire arms for many years, I understand the attraction and the excitement, the "romance and adventure" of these deadly dangerous devices. However, the associated risk of having more weapons of this type in the community causes me to submit that this should not be allowed; I hold the view that simply because a technology exists does not render it appropriate to allow it to be available for recreational use, 'sport'.

I do not support the proposed changes to legislation that dilute the National Firearms Agreement of the Australasian Police Ministers Council Special Firearms Meeting 10 May 1996.

Yours sincerely

Kim Pitt AM