

**Member for Goyder, the Hon Kezia Purick MLA, response to issues raised in the submissions from the Department of Tourism, Sport and Culture and the Northern Territory Police Force.**

*Department of Tourism, Sport and Culture (Submission No. 2)*

I have reviewed the comments from the department of tourism and sports and have no issues with the suggestions/recommendations so presume that will involve amendments to the bill.

*Northern Territory Police Force (Submission No. 3)*

I thank the NT Police for providing a comprehensive submission to the scrutiny committee.

There are parts of the submission that are acceptable and there are parts that I do not support.

1. I have no issue with the Bill covering only .50 calibre firearms
2. I have no issue with the minimum age being 18 years of age and this was raised in other submissions.
3. I have no issue with a review of the legislation within the time frames recommended and how to report.
4. I concur that there should be the most appropriate safe guards in place and these include:
  - The proposed licence should require a body corporate licence
  - Employee licences should be required
  - The commissioner should be able to share information regarding employees and prospective employees with the range licence holder
  - Close associates should be identified in applicant for licenses
  - Automatic revocation of licence under certain circumstances
  - Approval of premises for shooting activities
  - Offence provisions to ensure compliance and deter inappropriate use of firearms
  - Notification of change of representative licence holder
  - Conditions of licence to ensure proper regulation of premises and business activity
5. The Bill is written to allow for a new genuine need and that is to engage in the shooting of a .50 calibre rifle for recreational/sporting purposes. The use of the word “fun” was not used and gives an incorrect impression. The sport of long range firearms is an international activity and is well recognized around the world and in Australia with Australia being home to the world junior champion. This sport is not for everyone and those who do participate take the activity very seriously from a safety perspective plus commitment to do well.
6. The NT Police submission states that the Bill is inconsistent with the National Firearms Agreement. If this is so, how does the jurisdictions of Western Australia, Victoria and New South Wales operate as these states allow the use of .50 calibre firearms? I do not accept that the Bill is inconsistent with the national agreement.
7. If there are technical issues with the Bill, I would welcome advice from the NT Police as to ensuring the Bill does not have technical issues.

8. There are approximately 16,800 licenced firearm owners in the Territory of which only approximately 20% belong to a club, range or organization. The balance are recreational shooters and/or hunters. From my research, the vast majority of people of the 16,800 owners are law abiding, responsible and compliant with requirements (for example, having a properly installed gun safe). I would fully expect that this Bill and the activity associated with the Bill would be no different and be undertaken with all safety and legal measures to ensure there is no harm to people, animals or property. While the current situation in our community does not lend itself to organized sporting activity, there will be a time in the near future with normality will return and this possible business and sporting venture will yield positive returns for the Territory.