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**SUBMISSION TO LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
FIREARMS AMENDMENT BILL 2026
ATTENTION: LEGISLATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

We refer to your request of Friday 20 March 2026 for submissions in relation to the above Bill. The Northern Territory Firearms Council is of the opinion that the above should **NOT** be passed in its current form and, specifically, suggests that the Amendment Bill fails to address the following formal submission to the Firearms Advisory Council and which was supported by that Council.....

“Under the provisions of Section 56(1)(d) of the *NT Firearms Act*, the following recommendation is made to the Police Minister to amend Section 10 and Section 13 of the *Firearms Act*, or alternately to create a new section which provides the Commissioner the ability to amend a licence after it has been granted and whilst it is still in force.

Motion:

That Section 10 and Section 13 be amended, or new section drafted which provides the ability for the Commissioner to amend a licence and/or its conditions after it has been issued.

That the amendment includes the following procedural fairness and natural justice provisions.

That the Commissioner can amend a licence in force;

- 1. On application by the holder of the licence, amend the genuine reason(s), firearms categories or conditions of their licence, or*
- 2. In circumstances where a change to the Act or Regulations requires the licence be amended for it to remain compliant with the changes to the Act or Regulations, or*
- 3. In circumstances where the Commissioner has reasonable grounds to believe that the licence needs to be amended to ensure public safety. And further;*
- 4. In circumstances where the Commissioner needs to amend the licence to allow the effective administration of the licence, in accordance with the principles of the Act or Regulations, where:*

- *The Commissioner advises the holder of the licence of the proposed change and its purpose, and*
- *Allows the holder of the licence 14 days to make a submission on the change, taken from the day that the notice of change is given, and*
- *The Commissioner takes into account the holder's submission before making a determination to either change the licence, or not proceed with the proposed change.*
- *That the new section provides that where a decision is made to amended a licence under part 3 or 4 of these provisions, that the holder ,if aggrieved, has the ability to appeal the decision through the provisions of Section 50. (NB This would also require an addition to Schedule 7)*

2

Rationale:

Recent legal advice sought by the Firearms Policy & Records Unit has identified that the Commissioner lacks the legislative ability to amend a licence once it has been issued. Any changes can only be addressed through a licence being revoked or surrendered by the holder and then rectified through a fresh application for a new licence.

This is far from desirable and the inability for the Commissioner to amend a licence after it has been issued and whilst still in force should be addressed as a matter of urgency.

This would provide significant benefits for the Commissioner in managing existing licences and allow licence holders the seek an amendment to an existing licence without the need to lodge a full new application. In these circumstances, it would reduce the workload for the Firearms Registry, and benefits licence holders by removing the impost and cost of having to apply for a further licence. Such a change would not lessen public safety expectations but in fact would provide better licensing outcomes for both the Commissioner and the licence holder.

I put forward this Motion to the FAC for consideration.”

The Bill, as currently proposed, leaves out a vital part of the above suggested amendment and there was no engagement or consultation with either Council or the FAC by Government or the Commissioner as to what was drafted up after it was agreed by all at FAC level as to how the amendments should be worded. This is a failure of both the Government and the Commissioner to engage with the stakeholders affected by these changes. Council and its FAC members therefore can not support either parts 6 or 8 of the Firearms Amendment Bill 2026 in their current form. Committee review of the Bill taking the above into account would therefore be much appreciated.

Yours Sincerely,

**Grant Hatcher
President
Northern Territory Firearms Council**

24 March 2026

