

SUBMISSION TO LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
FIREARMS AMENDMENT BILL 2026

ATTENTION: LEGISLATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

I 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. In respect to parts 6 and 8 regarding General Conditions of a License or permit , the Firearms Amendment Bill 2026 the proposed amendments are not what was passed as a motion at the Firearms Advisory Council, which included senior NT police members and is chaired by an Assistant Commissioner of the NT Police.

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 I cannot support either parts 6 or 8 of the Firearms Amendment Bill 2026 in their current form

There have been examples in the past where individuals of NT Firearms section have made rulings and imposed restrictions against licenced shooters or those applying for a licence which have been deemed illegal on appeal in the past.

The original approved motion included the following:

“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, where these appeals and decisions are legislated”.

I respectfully ask the Committee to review of the Bill taking the above into account which would therefore be greatly appreciated, it would enhance the openness and accountability of the Commissioner and also the NT Firearms Section. Allowing any decision by the Commissioner to be appealed against hence the paragraph above which is now missing from the proposed firearms amendment bill.

Forward for your consideration and respected decision.

(Original Signed)
A.W.(Tony) Chalker