



National Rifle Association of Australia
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23 January 2026

On behalf of all members, NRAA pays our respects to the victims of the Bondi terrorist attack, their families, and everyone affected. NRAA condemns this violence in the strongest possible terms. There is no place for terrorism, antisemitism, or any form of hatred in Australia.

NRAA Update to members on new national Firearms Legislation 2026

1. Summary

- Thank you to all the members from all States and Territories who wrote to their local Member and other politicians. Your efforts have definitely made a difference! Please write back and thank the politicians who voted against the Bill and supported amendments.
- The government then made modifications to the draft Bill and Explanatory Memorandum that clarified our position. These amendments have reduced the burden that was in the initial drafts.
- The final Firearms and Customs Bill 2026 then passed through Parliament on Tuesday 20 January, received royal assent the following day and is now active.
- While the changes will make processes more operationally difficult in some areas, in most cases it will not have an impact to our regular club operations and individual sporting competition activities.
- The message from NRAA and all State & Territories is to get out onto the range and continue to enjoy your sport as law abiding firearms owners.

2. The Legislative Process

- The past ten days has seen a burst of national legislative activity that will impact our sport and members for years to come.
- NRAA collaborated closely with our State and Territory Associations and other National shooting organisations to respond with action very quickly.
- Thank you for the thousands of emails, letters and submissions sent by individual members and our State and Territory Associations to a combination of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security (PJCIS), Members of the House of Representatives, Senators and Ministers.
- The NRAA submission was one of over 7000 (reportedly) to the PJCIS sent by 4pm on 15 January. The Parliament website advises that all submissions will ultimately be reviewed and uploaded for transparency. As at the time of writing the NRAA submission has not been uploaded yet, but it can be viewed via this NRAA website link: [NRAA Exposure-Draft-Combating-Antisemitism-Hate-and-Extremism-Bill-2026.pdf](#)



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- It was concerning that the government only gave the Australian public two days to assess the impacts of 469 pages of complex legislation and explanatory documents. The Public Hearing on 14 January was stacked with organisations and experts sympathetic to the draft legislation – no sport shooting organisations were invited. The Department of Home Affairs did conduct a short briefing for sport shooting stakeholders on 15 January.
- Tens of thousands of other licensed firearms holders also contacted politicians and signed petitions by early last week when parliament was recalled.
- NRAA is part of an alliance of national shooting organisations and firearms industry companies led by Shooting Industry Foundation of Australia (SIFA). SSAA and Shooters Union of Australia carried out the bulk of the social media advertising with the financial commitment of NRAA and others. Collectively, there were many meetings, and phone calls, with key politicians and public servants.
- The Laws were passed in Parliament on Tuesday after the Bill was split.
- Ultimately there were only minor amendments to the wording in the Firearms and Customs Laws 2026 component. The final Bill can be viewed and downloaded here: [ParlInfo - Combatting Antisemitism, Hate and Extremism \(Firearms and Customs Laws\) Bill 2026](#)
- There were some changes and clarifications made within the Explanatory Memorandum that honoured the government's statements that licensed firearms owners would not be impacted where there was a genuine reason. The genuine reason for NRAA members is that of sport shooting and international sport shooting. It is not ideal that the legislation is so broad as to potentially capture any licensed firearms holder, but at least the Explanatory Memorandum (EM) provides details of intent and exclusions and defences which may be relied upon for interpretation by a court. The final EM can be viewed and downloaded here: [ParlInfo - Combatting Antisemitism, Hate and Extremism \(Firearms and Customs Laws\) Bill 2026](#)
- Regulations still need to be drafted to provide the detail around the processes for implementation of the laws and this will need to be monitored closely.

3. What this means for members going forward

[Important: Please note that this is preliminary advice only and may change once the details are studied further and evaluated].

a) Use of the internet (carriage services)

- Our major concern was the potential for charges to be brought against a member for simply researching firearms parts and handloading on the internet or via technical chat groups. Para 876 of EM provides comfort that it is not intended to extend to material that provides instructions on how to safely use, operate, and maintain a firearm. This includes, for example, videos about dismantling a firearm or reloading ammunition, a manufacturer-supplied firearm manual that explains safe operation and maintenance, or



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an online article providing instructions on fitting scopes, adjusting sights, or installing other compliant accessories.

- Members may continue to access and discuss firearms and handloading material on the internet provided that it is for lawful purposes in accordance with your licence or permit (Para 912 of EM and Para 474.45J (2) of the Bill).

b) Importing firearms parts

- Para 792 of EM allows for the continued importation of frames, receivers, barrels, etc for the purposes of sports and international sports shooting. However, relevant parts may all need to be provided with a serial number for tracking purposes. It is expected that this will make the current purchase and registration process slower and more complicated.
- Para 165 of EM specifically addresses straight pull rifles as used by our biathlon and some other members. The change to prohibited classification means that importation will be difficult, but local manufacture may be possible under certain circumstances (Para 913 of EM). There is also a statement that they are allowed for continued use for sports shooting but no doubt obtaining approvals to do so will be more complicated.
- It is not expected that the process of temporarily exporting and re-importing a member's own firearms for international and/or team sporting purposes will be impacted. It is not addressed in the new legislation. Likewise, temporary visitor's permits for international sports competitors entering Australia with approved categories of firearms are not impacted by the legislation.

c) Gun buyback and firearm limits

- The big issue appears to be the impact of the limit on firearms ownership in revised State laws. That is still being worked through and understood for NSW, together with educating and informing decision-makers in S&Ts where reviews are about to be undertaken by end of March.
- The gun buyback details are likely to be caught up in all of this. Schedule 2 Part 1 (Para 10, 15, 66, 76 of EM) and Schedule 3 (Para 65 of the EM) indicates that there is little practical information in the new Laws on how the gun buyback will be implemented at this stage. Of potential concern is that a cap will be set on funds paid (Para 85 of EM).
- The parameters of the buyback will not be decided until after the next national cabinet meeting. The Bill just made supply of funds available for this purpose.

d) Firearms licence background checks and citizenship

- Schedule 2, Part 2 of the legislation (Para 13 of EM) regarding Firearms background checks means that AusCheck may draw upon information from ASIO and ACIC in assessing whether to approve or renew a firearms licence. It is expected that the process will become more complex. It will also become more frequent in NSW where renewals will be required every two years.



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- The process may require a citizenship check before approval or renewal of a licence. NRAA currently has licensed members of good standing who are currently not Australian citizens. Unfortunately, there currently does not appear to be any exclusions for this test.
- The national legislation requires that anyone importing firearms be an Australian citizen (Para 64 of EM).

NRAA has obtained independent legal advice and is working closely with SIFA and the other national shooting bodies in the alliance to interpret the impacts and push for better outcomes as further regulations are prepared.

NRAA will continue to work closely with State and Territory Associations to keep individual members progressively informed as the impacts of the implementation of these laws becomes known.

Please note that the Federal government has required all States and Territories governments to carry out a review of their own firearms laws by the end of March, with a view to implementing nationally consistent laws by the end of June. NRAA will assist our S&T Associations to provide submissions and more contact with relevant decision makers is expected to be required in each location.

Should you have any questions, please liaise with your home State or Territory Association in the first instance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'S' followed by a horizontal line.

Stephen Negus
Chair on behalf of the Board