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Committee Secretary
Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security
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Property Rights Australia Inc submission to Exposure Draft Legislation: Combatting Antisemitism, Hate and Extremism Bill 2026

Property Rights Australia Inc. (PRA) is a not-for-profit, apolitical organisation which formed in 2003, to protect the property rights of landowners adversely affected by the actions of government, private companies and others who negatively impact on their properties and their right to do business. Our members are small, medium and large enterprises, mostly in Queensland and a few are from other states. PRA strives for ecologically and economically sustainable natural resource management, whilst protecting private property rights. PRA wants to ensure government policies and natural resource management decisions are based on sound science and responsible economic management.

PRA's submission pertains to Schedule 4 of the Bill which relates to firearms-related legislation.

In summary:

- **PRA does not support the Bill. The perverse and unintended consequences of Schedule 4 in the Bill on law-abiding Australian citizens, in particular rural producers and associated agribusinesses, is unfair and impedes animal welfare, pest animal culling, biosecurity responses and human rights.**

- **PRA recommends that amendments to firearms legislation should not be tied up in a reactionary, omnibus Bill. Schedule 4 should be repealed from the Bill. Any amendments to firearms legislation requires due consultative process by diverse stakeholders who use firearms as a necessary tool. Firearm regulations must not be a rushed decision based on city-centric, policy advice.**

- **PRA recommends the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security fully consider and adopt the Shooters Union Australia's submission recommendations (Sub No 48)[1] to withdraw and redevelop Schedule 4 of the Bill.**

Further details to these recommendations are provided as background (as per page 2 and 3 of this submission):-

[1] Shooters Union Australia. Submission No 48 to the Joint Intelligence and Security Committee. https://www.aph.gov.au/DocumentStore.ashx?id=f86b8640-a643-41b6-a8a8-79efc11b3197&subId=783323

Background

Schedule 4: Part 1. National gun buyback (pp. 56-59 of the Bill)

PRA does not support the concept of a national gun buyback. There is no evidence or correlation that firearms possessed by rural landholders, shooters of invasive pest animals, animal welfare officers, and recreational shooters have been used in any racial altercation or radical extremist event or something similar. It is not fair to limit these genuine users of firearms, due to the behaviour of two individuals associated with the recent Bondi attack.

The compulsory surrender of firearms also has perverse impacts on the right for some families to hold onto family heirlooms, such as rifles passed down from previous generations. If the firearm is stored safely and disengaged from active firing, these family heirlooms should be able to be kept.

Schedule 4: Part 2. Firearms background checks (pp. 60-90)

PRA does not support the Bill or Schedule 4. It enables the federal government to do background checks of applicants across "law enforcement agencies"[2], which includes state's "community safety departments" and any other agency "that can execute or implement and order or decision made by a court or tribunal". This would infer agencies associated with assessing mental health, implementing court orders for divorce, and other court rulings, etc.

Legitimate firearm users and rural producers requiring the agricultural tool of a firearm for animal welfare and pest animal control will be reluctant to seek mental health advice, if they know the proposed firearm background check process could result in the loss of an essential farm tool.

Proposed insert after Subsection 8(4) (p. 61)

> Insert:
>
> *Firearms background checks*
>
> (4A) If paragraph (1)(f) applies, a firearms background check of an individual may only take into account one or more of the following:
>
> (a) an assessment by the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation of the individual under the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation Act 1979;
> (b) a criminal intelligence assessment (within the meaning of Division 2A of Part II of the Australian Crime Commission 20 Act 2002) of the individual under that Act;
> (c) the citizenship status of the individual.

PRA does not support the firearm background check of "the citizenship status of the individual". This insert into the AusCheck scheme may limit the rights of farmers, hired workers and agribusiness staff that live and work in Australia, who have not changed their citizenship to Australian. Farms often employ a range of overseas workers who are not Australian citizens. Will this citizen status check also impede ecotourism businesses where international, professional hunters pay for a safari experience

[2] In Queensland, "law enforcement agencies" are defined in Schedule 5 of the *Information Privacy Act 2009* (Qld). Key privacy concepts - enforcement agencies and activities | Office of the Information Commissioner Queensland and Information Privacy Act 2009 - Queensland Legislation - Queensland Government . Other states and territories would have similar definitions.

in Australia to hunt invasive pest animals. Another perverse outcome for the majority of lawful firearm users across rural and regional Australia.

Proposed insert - Section4FA of the Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956 – Public safety test for firearms (pp. 104-109)

The Bill is not clear on how the Minister can distinguish between public safety versus original intent of a firearm article, when conducting a "public safety test" for importing.

How will this test requirement impact on a national biosecurity response to an exotic animal disease outbreak such as Foot and Mouth Disease FMD or similar, where imported munition and firearms are required to quickly cull a large portion of Australia's national herd? What is the time delay to conduct such tests?

There is insufficient information provided how the "public safety test" and "public interest test" (Item 9) and "national interest test" (Item 10) will be interpreted and which has precedence.

The risk is not the actual import of firearm articles, it is who, where and how they are used. Most firearms are manufactured overseas. This proposed new regulation burdens genuine, law-abiding Australian users with unnecessary red tape to access firearms and munition?

Part 5 – Importation of firearms

Prohibited Imports – Assisted repeating action and straight pull repeating action firearms and magazines over 30 rounds (pp. 110-124)

PRA recommends that the firearms Schedule 4 of the Bill should not proceed and that further consultation is required with firearm stakeholders including rural producers, shooting associations and pest animal control operators.

Repeat action firearms and magazines over 30 rounds are a required tool in certain situations. For example, animal welfare and culling of large herds due to biosecurity, disease and injury. How does the Federal Labor Government propose humane destruction of injured and suffering livestock and native animals from the recent horrendous wildfires sweeping across Victoria and the extensive flooding across central and northern Queensland? PRA invites federal Labor Ministers and their policy advisors to come to a paddock of suffering animals and help with quick, humane destruction with a single shot handgun. PRA recommends further consultation with firearm users is required, before changing any firearm regulations and legislation.

If the federal Labor Government genuinely cares about the environment, they will support the humane aerial culling of feral invasive pest animals by professional shooters. These professionals need repeat action firearms, magazines over 30 rounds and sound suppressors to strategically shoot from the air, ensuring each pest animal is killed and to cull many in one small location. The evidence-based science confirms aerial culling of feral pigs and feral deer is the most effective management method.

Further Information

If you require further information or clarification on any points raised in the submission, please contact Property Rights Australia Inc (PRA) by email on pra1@bigpond.net.au.