

FACT SHEET

Firearms Amendment (Rapid Fire Shotguns – Community Safety) Bill 2015

In 1996 Tasmania's Parliament agreed to implement the stringent requirements contained in the *National Firearms Agreement*. Those requirements have served our community well.

However, in recent years gun manufacturers have begun to import rapid fire lever action shotguns capable of firing six 12-gauge shots in as many seconds. These rapid fire shotguns have been sold to all licence holders.

The fact that rapid fire shotguns are being made widely available to all licence holders is inconsistent with the intent of the *National Firearms Agreement*.

The intention of the drafters of the *National Firearms Agreement* was to progressively group shotguns into higher, more regulated, categories as the shotgun increases in its capacity to fire more shots without the need to reload. It is inconsistent with this approach for rapid fire guns to be sold broadly to all gun owners.

The Bill would remedy this situation by closing the loophole and ensuring Tasmania's gun laws are putting the 1996 Agreement into full effect.

The Bill recognises that, unlike traditional single and double barrel shotguns, modern lever-action shotguns use a mechanism that enables spent ammunition to be ejected and fresh ammunition chambered from a magazine in rapid succession.

The Bill recognises that, like pump-action shotguns, modern lever-action shotguns are not a Category A firearm under the *National Firearms Agreement*, but rather a Category C or D firearm, depending on the capacity of the shotgun's magazine.

The Bill amends Tasmania's *Firearms Act* to ensure it continues to comply with the *National Firearms Agreement* through categorising modern lever-action firearms accordingly.

The effect of the Bill will be that gun owners need to show cause as to why they need a rapid fire shotgun.