

2026

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

(As presented)

(Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services)

Firearms (Public Safety) Amendment Bill 2026

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(As presented)

(Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services)

Firearms (Public Safety) Amendment Bill 2026

A Bill for

An Act to amend the *Firearms Act 1996*

The Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory enacts as follows:

1 **1 Name of Act**

2 This Act is the *Firearms (Public Safety) Amendment Act 2026*.

3 **2 Commencement**

4 (1) Section 3 and section 13 commence on the day after this Act's
5 notification day.

6 Note The naming and commencement provisions automatically commence on
7 the notification day (see [Legislation Act](#), s 75 (1)).

8 (2) The remaining provisions commence on a day fixed by the Minister
9 by written notice.

10 Note A single day or time may be fixed, or different days or times may be
11 fixed, for the commencement of different provisions (see [Legislation Act](#),
12 s 77 (1)).

13 (3) If the remaining provisions have not commenced before
14 1 January 2028, they automatically commence on that day.

15 (4) The [Legislation Act](#), section 79 (Automatic commencement of
16 postponed law) does not apply to this Act.

17 **3 Legislation amended**

18 This Act amends the [Firearms Act 1996](#).

19 **4 New section 52A**

20 *insert*

21 **52A Authority conferred by licence—limitation on number of
22 firearms possessed or used by licensees**

23 (1) A licence that authorises the licensee to possess or use a firearm is
24 subject to the following limitations (if any) on the number of firearms
25 that may be possessed or used by the licensee under the licence:

26 (a) for a licensee who possesses or uses a firearm for a relevant
27 genuine reason—not more than the greater of—

1 (i) 10 firearms; or

2 (ii) the number of firearms approved by the registrar subject
3 to any requirement prescribed by regulation;

4 (b) for a collector licence—no limitation;

5 (c) for a composite entity licence—no limitation;

6 (d) for a firearms dealer licence—no limitation;

7 (e) for a licensee prescribed by regulation—the number of firearms
8 approved by the registrar subject to any requirement prescribed
9 by regulation;

10 (f) in any other case—not more than 5 firearms.

11 (2) The total number of firearms a licensee may possess or use under
12 more than 1 relevant licence held by the licensee, despite any
13 combined numerical total under the licences, is limited to the number
14 under whichever relevant licence provides the highest number of
15 firearms.

16 (3) If a person is authorised to possess or use a firearm temporarily under
17 section 14 or under a law of a State, the firearm is not counted in the
18 number of firearms that may be possessed or used by the person under
19 this section.

20 *Note* *State* includes the Northern Territory (see [Legislation Act](#), dict, pt 1).

21 (4) In this section:

22 ***relevant genuine reason*** means—

23 (a) animal welfare; or

24 (b) business or employment; or

25 (c) occupational requirements relating to rural purposes; or

26 (d) primary production; or

27 (e) sport or target shooting; or

(f) vertebrate pest animal control.

Note Complying with any limitation on the number of firearms that may be possessed or used by a licensee under this section is a condition of an adult firearms licence (see s 73) and a minor firearms licence (see s 94). A person commits an offence if they contravene a condition of their licence (see s 45).

relevant licence means a licence of a kind mentioned in subsection (1) (a), (e) or (f).

5 Adult firearms licenses—conditions New section 73 (1) (aa)

before paragraph (a), insert

(aa) the licensee must comply with any limitation on the number of firearms that may be possessed or used by the licensee under section 52A;

6 Minors firearms licenses—conditions New section 94 (1) (aa)

before paragraph (a), insert

(aa) the licensee must comply with any limitation on the number of firearms that may be possessed or used by the licensee under section 52A;

7 Temporary international firearms licenses—conditions New section 130 (1) (aa)

before paragraph (a), insert

(aa) the licensee must comply with any limitation on the number of firearms that may be possessed or used by the licensee under section 52A;

**8 Permits to acquire—refusal to issue generally
New section 145 (1) (c)**

3 *insert*

(c) the registrar is satisfied on reasonable grounds that the acquisition would not result in the acquirer possessing or using more firearms than the number of firearms that may be possessed or used under the acquirer's licence.

9 Permits to acquire—refusal to issue to temporary international firearms licensees
New section 146 (2) (c)

13 *insert*

(c) the registrar is satisfied on reasonable grounds that the acquisition would not result in the acquirer possessing or using more firearms than the number of firearms that may be possessed or used under the acquirer's licence.

10 User registration—refusal New section 171 (1) (c)

22 *insert*

(c) if the registered owner of the firearm is anyone other than a relevant registered owner—registering the applicant as a user of the firearm would not result in the applicant possessing or using more firearms than the number of firearms that may be possessed or used under the applicant’s licence.

11 New section 171 (3)

2 *insert*

3 (3) In this section:

- 5 (a) a licensed firearms dealer; or
- 6 (b) a composite entity; or
- 7 (c) an approved club; or
- 8 (d) any other registered owner prescribed by regulation.

12 New section 228A

10 *insert*

228A Offence—possession of digital blueprint for manufacture of firearms or firearm parts

13 (1) A person commits an offence if—

14 (a) the person has possession of a digital blueprint for an item; and
15 (b) the item is a firearm or a firearm part; and
16 (c) the item may be manufactured by using the digital blueprint in
17 combination with a computer-aided manufacturing device.

Examples—computer-aided manufacturing device

a 3D printer, an electronic milling machine

20 Maximum penalty: 500 penalty units, imprisonment for 5 years or
21 both.

22 (2) Strict liability applies to subsection (1) (b) and (c).

1 (3) Subsection (1) does not apply to a person if—

- (a) the person is authorised by a firearms dealer licence, or is otherwise authorised under this Act, to manufacture the firearm or firearm part; or
- (b) the person possesses the digital blueprint in the course of carrying out public or official duties in relation to—
 - (i) enforcing or administering a territory law, or a law of the Commonwealth or a State; or
 - (ii) monitoring compliance with, or investigating a contravention of, a territory law, or a law of the Commonwealth or a State; or
 - (iii) the administration of the justice system; or

15 (c) the person—

- (i) possesses the digital blueprint to undertake scientific, medical, educational, military or law enforcement research that has been approved by the registrar in writing; and
- (ii) has not contravened a condition of the approval.

- (a) the defendant did not know, and could not reasonably be expected to have known, that the defendant possessed the digital blueprint; or
- (b) the digital blueprint came into the defendant's possession unsolicited and, as soon as they became aware of its nature, the defendant took reasonable steps to remove the blueprint from their possession.

6 (6) In this section:

7 ***computer*** includes a tablet, mobile phone and any other electronic
8 device for storing or processing information.

9 *digital blueprint* means—

10 (a) any type of digital or electronic reproduction of a technical
11 drawing; or

12 (b) any electronic coding; or

13 (c) any computer-aided design.

14 **possession**, of a digital blueprint, includes the following:

15 (a) possession of a computer or data storage device holding or
16 containing the blueprint;

17 (b) possession of a document in which the blueprint is recorded;

18 (c) control of the blueprint—

19 (i) held in a computer or data storage device that is in the
20 possession of another person (whether the computer or
21 data storage device is in the ACT or elsewhere); or
22 (ii) held on a remote computer or remote data storage device
23 that is accessible from a computer or data storage device
24 (whether the remote computer or remote data storage
25 device is in the ACT or elsewhere).

1 **13 New part 27**

2 *insert*

3 **Part 27**

4 **Transitional—Firearms (Public
Safety) Amendment Act 2026**

5 **419 Meaning of *amendment Act*—pt 27**

6 In this part:

7 *amendment Act* means the *Firearms (Public Safety) Amendment
8 Act 2026*.

9 **420 Applications for other categories of licences after
10 relevant amendments commence**

11 (1) This section applies if—

12 (a) before the commencement of a relevant amendment, a licensee
13 was authorised to possess or use a firearm under a category of
14 licence (the *existing licence*); and

15 (b) on the commencement of the relevant amendment, another
16 category of licence will be required to possess or use the firearm
17 (the *other licence*).

18 (2) The licensee may apply for the other licence before the
19 commencement of the relevant amendment.

20 (3) Despite the commencement of the relevant amendment, the licensee's
21 existing licence continues to authorise the licensee to possess or use
22 the firearm until the application for the other licence is determined by
23 the registrar.

24 (4) A regulation may prescribe other circumstances in which a licensee's
25 existing licence continues to authorise the licensee to possess or use
26 the firearm on or after the commencement of the relevant amendment.

1 (5) In this section:

2 *relevant amendment* means an amendment made by the amendment
3 Act, section 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 or 20.

4 **421 Limitation on number of firearms licensees may possess**
5 **or use during relevant period**

6 (1) This section applies to—

7 (a) a licensee who may apply for a permit to acquire a firearm under
8 section 143; and

9 (b) the holder of a licence to which section 168 applies who may
10 apply for registration as a user of a firearm under that section.

11 (2) The licensee or holder must not, during the relevant period, apply for
12 the permit or registration if issuing the permit or registering the holder
13 would mean the number of firearms possessed or used by the licensee
14 or holder would exceed the number of firearms they will be permitted
15 to possess or use under section 52A, as inserted by the amendment
16 Act, section 4, after the commencement of that section.

19 (4) This section does not apply to an application for registration as a user
20 of a registered firearm if the registered owner of the firearm is a
21 relevant registered owner.

22 (5) In this section:

24 (a) starting on the day after this Act's notification day; and
25 (b) ending on the day the amendment Act, section 4 commences.

relevant registered owner—see section 171 (3), as inserted by the amendment Act, section 11.

1 **422 Expiry—pt 27**

2 This part expires 1 year after the day the amendment Act, section 4
3 commences.

4 *Note* A transitional provision is repealed on its expiry but continues to have
5 effect after its repeal (see [Legislation Act](#), s 88).

6 **14 Prohibited firearms**
7 **Schedule 1, new item 25**

8 *insert*

| | |
|----|--------------------|
| 25 | a belt-fed firearm |
|----|--------------------|

9 **15 Licence categories and authority conferred**
10 **Schedule 3, item 1, column 3, paragraphs (a) to (d)**

11 *substitute*

- 12 (a) airguns (other than semiautomatic airguns);
- 13 (b) rim-fire rifles (other than self-loading, straight pull repeating action, self-
14 opening action or self-closing action) with magazine capacity of not more
15 than 10 rounds;
- 16 (c) shotguns (other than self-loading, pump action, straight pull repeating action,
17 lever-action, self-opening action or self-closing action) with magazine
18 capacity of not more than 5 rounds;
- 19 (d) shotgun and rim-fire rifle combinations

20 **16 Schedule 3, item 2, column 3, paragraphs (a) to (d)**

21 *substitute*

- 22 (a) muzzle-loading firearms (other than pistols);
- 23 (b) centre-fire rifles (other than self-loading, straight pull repeating action, self-
24 opening action or self-closing action) with magazine capacity of not more
25 than 10 rounds;
- 26 (c) shotgun and centre-fire rifle combinations;
- 27 (d) lever action shotguns with magazine capacity of not more than 5 rounds;
- 28 (e) semiautomatic airguns

1 **17 Schedule 3, item 3, column 3**

2 *substitute*

3 the following firearms (other than firearms mentioned in sch 1, item 1, 11, 12 or 25):

4 (a) self-loading rim-fire rifles with magazine capacity of not more than
5 10 rounds;

6 (b) self-opening action and self-closing action rim-fire rifles with magazine
7 capacity of not more than 10 rounds;

8 (c) self-loading shotguns with magazine capacity of not more than 5 rounds;

9 (d) self-opening action and self-closing action shotguns with magazine capacity
10 of not more than 5 rounds;

11 (e) pump action shotguns with magazine capacity of not more than 5 rounds;

12 (f) straight pull repeating action firearms (rim-fire rifles, centre-fire rifles and
13 shotguns)

14 **18 Schedule 3, item 4, column 3**

15 *substitute*

16 the following firearms (other than firearms mentioned in sch 1, item 5, 6, 10, 11,
17 12 or 25):

18 (a) self-loading centre-fire rifles;

19 (b) self-opening action and self-closing action centre-fire rifles;

20 (c) self-loading rim-fire rifles with magazine capacity of more than 10 rounds;

21 (d) self-opening action and self-closing action rim-fire rifles with magazine
22 capacity of more than 10 rounds;

23 (e) self-loading shotguns with magazine capacity of more than 5 rounds;

24 (f) self-opening action and self-closing action shotguns with magazine capacity
25 of more than 5 rounds;

26 (g) pump action shotguns with magazine capacity of more than 5 rounds;

27 (h) lever action shotguns with magazine capacity of more than 5 rounds;

28 (i) any other firearms to which category C licence applies as prescribed by
29 regulation

1 **19 Schedule 3, items 11 and 12, column 3, paragraphs (a)
2 to (d)**

3 *substitute*

4 (a) airguns (other than semiautomatic airguns);
5 (b) rim-fire rifles (other than self-loading, straight pull repeating action, self-
6 opening action or self-closing action) with magazine capacity of not more
7 than 10 rounds;
8 (c) shotguns (other than self-loading, pump action, lever action, straight pull
9 repeating action, self-opening action or self-closing action) with magazine
10 capacity of not more than 5 rounds;
11 (d) shotgun and rim-fire rifle combinations

12 **20 Schedule 3, items 13 and 14, column 3, paragraphs (a)
13 to (d)**

14 *substitute*

15 (a) muzzle-loading firearms (other than pistols);
16 (b) centre-fire rifles (other than self-loading, straight pull repeating action, self-
17 opening action or self-closing action) with magazine capacity of not more
18 than 10 rounds;
19 (c) shotgun and centre-fire rifle combinations;
20 (d) lever action shotguns with magazine capacity of not more than 5 rounds;
21 (e) semiautomatic airguns

22 **21 Dictionary, new definitions**

23 *insert*

24 ***belt-fed firearm*** means a firearm with a feeding mechanism, whether
25 integral or detachable—

26 (a) designed to supply cartridges to a firearm by means of belt, or
27 like mechanism, or linked carrier, or like mechanism, whether
28 the belt, links or like mechanisms are reusable or disposable; and
29 (b) in which cartridges are held in sequence and mechanically
30 advanced into the chamber through cycling of the firearm's
31 action.

1 ***pump action***, in relation to a firearm, means a repeating action
2 firearm in which—

3 (a) a moveable fore-end is manually actuated in a motion generally
4 parallel to the barrel; and
5 (b) the motion is transmitted to a breech bolt assembly which
6 performs all the functions for loading and extracting cartridges.

7 ***repeating action***, in relation to a firearm, means a firearm—

8 (a) with an internal or externally attached ammunition storage
9 capacity; and

10 **Examples**

11 magazine or cylinder

12 (b) in which all functions of the cycle of fire are manual and
13 performed by the user.

14 **Example**

15 a bolt action repeating action rifle or shotgun

16 ***self-closing action***, in relation to a firearm, means a firearm—

17 (a) with an internal or externally attached ammunition storage
18 capacity; and
19 (b) that functions as follows:

20 (i) the action is manually opened after each firing, which
21 captures energy in a storage system;

22 **Example—storage system**

23 an action spring

24 (ii) manually opening the action causes the fired cartridge case
25 to be extracted from the chamber and ejected from the
26 firearm;

27 (iii) after opening, the stored energy is utilised to close the
28 action and feed another cartridge into the chamber.

1 ***self-opening action***, in relation to a firearm, means a firearm—
2 (a) with an internal or externally attached ammunition storage
3 capacity; and
4 (b) that functions as follows:
5 (i) after a cartridge is fired, the energy of the fired cartridge
6 is used to open the action;
7 (ii) the opening causes the fired cartridge case to be extracted
8 from the chamber and ejected from the firearm;
9 (iii) opening the action captures energy in a storage system and
10 the action locks in the open position;

11 **Example—storage system**

12 an action spring
13 (iv) manually activating a mechanism releases the stored
14 energy to close the action and feed another cartridge into
15 the chamber.

16 ***semiautomatic airgun*** means an airgun that—

17 (a) contains a magazine or revolving cylinder; and
18 (b) can discharge subsequent projectiles without manual cycling of
19 the action and with a single trigger pull for each shot.

20 ***straight pull repeating action***, in relation to a firearm, means a
21 repeating action firearm in which the bolt need not be rotated to open
22 or close the action but is reciprocated by a straight backward and
23 forward motion of the user's hand.

Endnotes

1 Presentation speech

Presentation speech made in the Legislative Assembly on 4 February 2026.

2 Notification

Notified under the [Legislation Act](#) on 2026.

3 Republications of amended laws

For the latest republication of amended laws, see www.legislation.act.gov.au.

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