

2026

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

(As presented)

(Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services)

Firearms (Public Safety) Amendment Bill 2026

Contents

	Page
1 Name of Act	2
2 Commencement	2
3 Legislation amended	2
4 New section 52A	2
5 Adult firearms licenses—conditions	
New section 73 (1) (aa)	4
6 Minors firearms licenses—conditions	
New section 94 (1) (aa)	4
7 Temporary international firearms licenses—conditions	
New section 130 (1) (aa)	4

Contents

		Page
8	Permits to acquire—refusal to issue generally New section 145 (1) (c)	5
9	Permits to acquire—refusal to issue to temporary international firearms licensees New section 146 (2) (c)	5
10	User registration—refusal New section 171 (1) (c)	5
11	New section 171 (3)	6
12	New section 228A	6
13	New part 27	9
14	Prohibited firearms Schedule 1, new item 25	11
15	Licence categories and authority conferred Schedule 3, item 1, column 3, paragraphs (a) to (d)	11
16	Schedule 3, item 2, column 3, paragraphs (a) to (d)	11
17	Schedule 3, item 3, column 3	12
18	Schedule 3, item 4, column 3	12
19	Schedule 3, items 11 and 12, column 3, paragraphs (a) to (d)	13
20	Schedule 3, items 13 and 14, column 3, paragraphs (a) to (d)	13
21	Dictionary, new definitions	13

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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 Name of Act

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

2 Commencement

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

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

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

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

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

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

3 Legislation amended

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

4 New section 52A

insert

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

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

- (a) for a licensee who possesses or uses a firearm for a relevant 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

1 (f) vertebrate pest animal control.

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

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

9 **5 Adult firearms licenses—conditions**
10 **New section 73 (1) (aa)**

11 *before paragraph (a), insert*

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

15 **6 Minors firearms licenses—conditions**
16 **New section 94 (1) (aa)**

17 *before paragraph (a), insert*

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

21 **7 Temporary international firearms licenses—conditions**
22 **New section 130 (1) (aa)**

23 *before paragraph (a), insert*

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

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

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.

Note Section 52A limits the number of firearms that a licensee may possess or use under the licensee's licence.

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

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.

Note Section 52A limits the number of firearms that a licensee may possess or use under the licensee's licence.

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

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.

Note Section 52A limits the number of firearms that a licensee may possess or use under the licensee's licence.

11 New section 171 (3)

insert

(3) In this section:

relevant registered owner, of a firearm, means—

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

12 New section 228A

insert

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

(1) A person commits an offence if—

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

Examples—computer-aided manufacturing device

a 3D printer, an electronic milling machine

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

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

(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

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

(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.

(4) It is a defence to a prosecution for an offence against subsection (1) if the defendant proves that—

(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.

Note The defendant has a legal burden in relation to the matters mentioned in s (4) (see [Criminal Code](#), s 59).

- 1 (5) For subsection (3) (c), the registrar—
- 2 (a) must keep a record of each approval and any condition of the
- 3 approval; and
- 4 (b) may keep the record in any form, including electronically, that
- 5 the registrar decides.
- 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).
- 26 **Example—remote data storage device**
- 27 a cloud storage system

13 New part 27
insert
Part 27 Transitional—Firearms (Public Safety) Amendment Act 2026
419 Meaning of *amendment Act*—pt 27

In this part:

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

420 Applications for other categories of licences after relevant amendments commence

- (1) This section applies if—
 - (a) before the commencement of a relevant amendment, a licensee was authorised to possess or use a firearm under a category of licence (the *existing licence*); and
 - (b) on the commencement of the relevant amendment, another category of licence will be required to possess or use the firearm (the *other licence*).
- (2) The licensee may apply for the other licence before the commencement of the relevant amendment.
- (3) Despite the commencement of the relevant amendment, the licensee's existing licence continues to authorise the licensee to possess or use the firearm until the application for the other licence is determined by the registrar.
- (4) A regulation may prescribe other circumstances in which a licensee's existing licence continues to authorise the licensee to possess or use 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.
- 17 (3) An application made contrary to subsection (2) is taken never to have
- 18 been made and is of no effect.
- 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:
- 23 *relevant period* means the period—
- 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.
- 26 *relevant registered owner*—see section 171 (3), as inserted by the
- 27 amendment Act, section 11.

422 Expiry—pt 27

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

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

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

insert

25	a belt-fed firearm
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**15 Licence categories and authority conferred
Schedule 3, item 1, column 3, paragraphs (a) to (d)**

substitute

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

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

substitute

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

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

substitute

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

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

substitute

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

21 Dictionary, new definitions

insert

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

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