

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
FIREARMS AMENDMENT BILL 2026

(Amendments and New Clauses to be proposed in Committee by RENEE HEATH)

1. Clause 2, after line 15 insert—

"(3) The Minister must not recommend to the Governor in Council the making of a proclamation in respect of any provision of Part 7 unless—

(a) the Minister is satisfied of the following matters—

- (i) that all Commonwealth legislative and regulatory arrangements necessary for the effective operation of the amendments made by that Part are in force;
- (ii) that arrangements have been made between the Chief Commissioner of Police and relevant Commonwealth entities for the effective operation of the amendments made by that Part;
- (iii) that all information technology systems and administrative processes necessary for the effective operation of the amendments made by that Part have been established;
- (iv) that the Chief Commissioner of Police has developed guidance material for the effective administration of the amendments made by that Part; and

(b) the Minister has caused notice of the matters referred to in paragraph (a)(ii), (iii) and (iv) to be published in the Government Gazette or transmitted to each House of the Parliament; and

(c) the Minister has caused notice of the following matters to be published in the Government Gazette—

- (i) the estimated initial and ongoing costs associated with the administration of the amendments made by that Part;
- (ii) details of any Commonwealth financial contributions provided for the administration of the amendments made by that Part;
- (iii) the estimated impact of the amendments made by that Part on fees for applications made under the **Firearms Act 1996**;
- (iv) the estimated financial impact of the amendments made by that Part on licence holders under the **Firearms Act 1996**; and

(d) the Minister has caused to be transmitted to each House of the Parliament a statement that sets out the following matters with respect to the amendments made by that Part—

- (i) information-sharing arrangements made between the Chief Commissioner of Police and relevant Commonwealth entities;
- (ii) privacy protections that apply to information shared between the Chief Commissioner of Police and relevant Commonwealth entities;
- (iii) arrangements made between the Chief Commissioner of Police and relevant Commonwealth entities in relation to—
 - (A) auditing and oversight of information; and
 - (B) retention and disposal of information; and
 - (C) management of complaints by affected persons."

2. Clause 40, lines 14 to 20, omit all words and expressions on these lines and insert—

'40 New sections 46D and 46E inserted

Before section 47 of the Principal Act **insert—**

"46D Suspension of licence—public safety

- (1) The Chief Commissioner may suspend a licence if the Chief Commissioner is satisfied that it is necessary to do so for public safety.
- (2) The Chief Commissioner must give written notice of a suspension under subsection (1) to the person whose licence is suspended.
- (3) The Chief Commissioner must ensure that a notice under subsection (2)—
 - (a) invites the person to provide a statement or evidence as to why the licence should not be cancelled; and
 - (b) specifies that any statement or evidence must be provided to the Chief Commissioner within 28 days after the notice is given.
- (4) The Chief Commissioner must consider any statement or evidence provided by the person within the period specified in subsection (3)(b) before cancelling the licence under section 46E.
- (5) The Chief Commissioner is not required to comply with subsection (3) or (4) if the Chief Commissioner is satisfied that doing so would create an unacceptable risk to public safety.
- (6) A suspension under this section remains in force until the Chief Commissioner makes a decision to cancel or not to cancel the licence under section 46E.
- (7) A person whose licence is suspended under this section is taken not to be the holder of a licence for the period of the suspension.

46E Cancellation of licence—public safety

- (1) The Chief Commissioner may cancel a licence that is suspended under section 46D if the Chief Commissioner is satisfied that it is necessary to do so for public safety.
 - (2) The Chief Commissioner must give written notice of a cancellation under subsection (1) to the person whose licence is cancelled.
 - (3) A person whose licence is cancelled under subsection (1) may, if the person is a non-prohibited person, apply to the Committee for a review of the decision of the Chief Commissioner to cancel the licence.".'.
3. Clause 44, omit this clause.
 4. Clause 45, lines 16 to 33 and page 26, lines 1 to 23, omit all words and expressions on these lines and insert—

'45 New sections 76C and 76D inserted

Before section 77 of the Principal Act **insert—**

"76C Suspension of dealers licence—public safety

- (1) The Chief Commissioner may suspend a dealers licence if the Chief Commissioner is satisfied that it is necessary to do so for public safety.
- (2) The Chief Commissioner must give written notice of a suspension under subsection (1) to the person whose licence is suspended.
- (3) The Chief Commissioner must ensure that a notice under subsection (2)—
 - (a) invites the person to provide a statement or evidence as to why the licence should not be cancelled; and
 - (b) specifies that any statement or evidence must be provided to the Chief Commissioner within 28 days after the notice is given.
- (4) The Chief Commissioner must consider any statement or evidence provided by the person within the period specified in subsection (3)(b) before cancelling the licence under section 76D.
- (5) The Chief Commissioner is not required to comply with subsection (3) or (4) if the Chief Commissioner is satisfied that doing so would create an unacceptable risk to public safety.
- (6) A suspension under this section remains in force until the Chief Commissioner makes a decision to cancel or not to cancel the licence under section 76D.
- (7) A person whose dealers licence is suspended under this section is taken not to be the holder of a dealers licence for the period of the suspension.

76D Cancellation of dealers licence—public safety

- (1) The Chief Commissioner may cancel a dealers licence that is suspended under section 76C if the Chief Commissioner is satisfied that it is necessary to do so for public safety.
- (2) The Chief Commissioner must give written notice of a cancellation under subsection (1) to the person whose licence is cancelled.
- (3) A person whose dealers licence is cancelled under subsection (1) may, if the person is a non-prohibited person, apply to the Committee for a review of the decision of the Chief Commissioner to cancel the licence.".'.

NEW CLAUSE

5. Insert the following New Clause to follow clause 45—

'45A New section 176AA inserted

After section 176 of the Principal Act **insert—**

"176AA Service standards for firearms background check applications

- (1) The Chief Commissioner must develop service standards for the making of applications for a firearms background check.
- (2) Service standards under subsection (1) must include—
 - (a) targets for the timely making of applications by the Chief Commissioner; and
 - (b) procedures for keeping a person who is to be the subject of a firearms background check informed as to the status of any application relating to that person.
- (3) As soon as practicable after the end of each financial year, the Chief Commissioner must ensure that notice of the Chief Commissioner's performance against the service standards during that year is published in the Government Gazette.".'.

NEW CLAUSE

6. Insert the following New Clause to follow clause 46—

'46A New section 176AB inserted

Before section 176A of the Principal Act **insert—**

"176AB Independent review of firearms background check provisions

- (1) The Minister must cause an independent review to be conducted of the amendments made to this Act by Part 7 of the **Firearms Amendment Act 2026**.
- (2) The independent review must consider the following matters—

- (a) public safety outcomes associated with the amendments;
 - (b) the effectiveness of the amendments;
 - (c) the impact of the amendments on processing times for applications for a licence;
 - (d) the impact of the amendments on the resources of Victoria Police;
 - (e) initial and ongoing costs associated with the administration of the amendments;
 - (f) the impact of the amendments on individual privacy;
 - (g) whether the amendments afford procedural fairness to affected persons;
 - (h) the overall impact of the amendments on licence holders and applicants for a licence.
- (3) The independent review must be conducted as soon as practicable after the second anniversary of the first day on which all the provisions of Part 7 of the **Firearms Amendment Act 2026** are in operation.
- (4) The Minister must cause a report of the independent review to be transmitted to each House of the Parliament as soon as practicable after the review is completed.".'.