

**Subject:** Firearms Law Changes and Public Safety

Dear Premier Minns / [Local State MP's Name],

I am writing as a constituent and a licensed firearms owner to express my concerns following recent public statements regarding potential changes to firearms laws in NSW.

Like many Australians, I am deeply saddened by the recent tragedy and extend my condolences to the victims, their families, and everyone affected. However, I am concerned that the public discussion is quickly shifting toward broad restrictions on lawful firearms owners, rather than addressing where systems appear to have failed.

NSW — and Australia more broadly — already has some of the strictest firearms laws in the world. Licensed firearms owners are required to demonstrate a genuine reason, complete safety training, comply with strict storage requirements, obtain permits to acquire, and undergo ongoing compliance checks. Law-abiding licence holders already meet significant regulatory obligations, and further restricting compliant people will not prevent deliberate acts of violence by individuals who intend to cause harm.

Put simply: a firearm does not load itself, aim itself, or act independently. Responsibility lies with individuals and with the systems designed to assess, monitor, and intervene when risks emerge.

From a public safety perspective, the most critical point of failure appears to be the licensing and monitoring process. If gaps exist in how applicants are assessed — including background checks, intelligence sharing, or how risk indicators are identified over time — then this is where reform should be focused. Strengthening the front end of the system is more effective than imposing additional restrictions on those who already comply with the law.

In this context, I would also highlight the importance of fully implementing the National Firearms Register (NFR). Improved interstate visibility and information sharing between jurisdictions and agencies would help prevent individuals from falling through administrative gaps. A complete, functional register would be a meaningful step toward improving oversight without penalising responsible licence holders.

There are also compliance-focused initiatives already being trialled that deserve consideration. Programs such as enhanced firearms safe inspection systems, including digital and evidence-based inspection tools, improve accountability and allow early identification of risk indicators — without changing ownership laws or applying blanket restrictions.

This is the broader issue that must be addressed: improving intelligence sharing, strengthening licensing assessments, and enhancing compliance mechanisms. Broad restrictions on lawful ownership alone will not resolve systemic failures if the approval and monitoring processes themselves are where weaknesses exist.

I am also concerned about the wider impact that sweeping legislative changes may have on regional communities and small businesses, as well as on recreational, sporting, and rural firearm users who comply with the law. Sudden or poorly targeted changes risk causing unnecessary disruption without delivering genuine improvements to public safety.

Given the level of concern and uncertainty within the community, clear and accurate communication from Government would also help prevent misinformation and unnecessary alarm.

I respectfully ask that you consider:

- the importance of evidence-based reform focused on licensing, monitoring, and intelligence sharing, and
- whether the Government will prioritise fixing systemic gaps rather than imposing broad restrictions on compliant firearms owners.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I appreciate the opportunity to raise these concerns and would welcome any response outlining the Government's current position.

Yours sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Suburb / Electorate]