Correcting the Record.

The Point's claim that Tasmania "falls short" — and that your firearms feed the black market — does not stand up.

WHAT THE POINT PUBLISHED

On 16 September, **The Point** — an initiative of the Australia Institute — ran an "Explainer" by Alice Grundy on Tasmania's new firearms Bill, which the lower house passed **without** a cap. It argues the law "falls well short" of what was agreed at National Cabinet, and claims that "a higher number of licenced firearms increases the risk of a higher number of firearms entering the black market."

THE BENCHMARK IS OUT OF DATE

Caps and recategorisation were only ever put on the table as **options** at the National Cabinet of December 2025. When the National Firearms Agreement was actually **updated** — on 26 August 2026, its first update in nearly a decade — it adopted **neither caps nor recategorisation**. Caps are not the national standard: only a minority of jurisdictions have them; Victoria, Queensland, the NT and SA declined; and Tasmania has just voted one down. Measuring Tasmania against "the National Cabinet agreement," while omitting the August outcome, is misleading.

WHY IT MATTERS FOR THE ACT

THE ACT'S POSITION, MISREPRESENTED

- The article lists the ACT among jurisdictions that have "agreed to" caps.
- In fact the ACT's caps are **proposed, not law** — still before the Legislative Assembly.
- The debate here is live; casting it as settled misleads Canberrans and pre-empts a decision still to be made.
- With the Agreement silent on caps and states declining, the ACT is now the **last jurisdiction still pursuing them**.

BLAMING THE VICTIM

> *"… the greatest source of new illegal firearms is from stolen licenced firearms – so a higher number of licenced firearms increases the risk of a higher number of firearms entering the black market." — The Point, 16 Sep 2026*

The conclusion does not follow. Whether a firearm is stolen turns on **how securely it is stored**, not on how many others its owner holds; a cap leaves the rest just as stealable. The claim is single-sourced to the Australia Institute's own research, against the ACIC's assessment that the illicit market is dominated by the "grey market" and illegal imports. Above all it **blames the victim**: an owner whose securely-stored firearm is stolen is the victim of a crime, not the cause of the black market. The article's own Tasmanian figures — 164 stolen, one in five recovered — describe a storage-and-recovery failure, answered by secure storage and recovery, not caps.

ON THEIR OWN DATA

The Australia Institute's **own** theft report (Oct 2025) records the ACT with the **lowest** firearm-theft rate in the nation (~3.1 per 100,000) against Tasmania's 29.3. The theft argument for caps is weakest precisely where we are.

AN "EXPLAINER" THAT ARGUES ONE SIDE

The author is the Australia Institute's **Research Manager**; the research is the Institute's; The Point is its own platform; and the author appeared as a **witness** for these measures — none disclosed. The two independent, government-commissioned reviews are left out: the Lay Review found "no clear evidence that numerical caps … reduce firearms-related harm," and the ACT's Report 9 recorded "significant uncertainty" over how the proposed caps would even work.

WHERE SSAA ACT STANDS

No caps, no recategorisation, no mandatory buyback. Target criminals and illicit firearms; address theft at its cause with secure storage and recovery; require evidence of a genuine public-safety benefit; and treat the owner whose firearm is stolen as a victim of crime.

We have asked The Point to correct the record and — as earlier requests went unanswered — who oversees complaints about it. Full record: **ssaaact.org.au/legislative-action**.

Article: The Point (an initiative of the Australia Institute), "Tasmania's new firearm legislation falls short of National Cabinet agreement," Alice Grundy, 16 September 2026. Evidence anchors: updated National Firearms Agreement (National Cabinet, 26 August 2026); Lay Rapid Review of Victoria's Firearms Laws (May 2026); ACT Standing Committee on Legal Affairs, Report 9 (May 2026); The Australia Institute, Firearm theft in Australia (October 2025). Not legal advice.