

From the Regulatory Impact Statement: *The 2013 Regulation provides that licenced holders under the Firearms Act 1996 are not required to be licenced to store up to 12kg of propellant powder. Issues with compliance have been identified wherein multiple licence holders, at a single residential address, are each able to store up to 12kg of propellant power – resulting in the unsafe accumulation of propellant powder.*

I am a hand loader of firearms ammunition for my own and my sons use - target shooting and hunting. The powder types are specific to certain cartridges and rifle configurations. Handloaders often need to hold several powders for the one cartridge / rifle and across several rifles / cartridges.

The proposed changes limit the amount of powder we can store at in the future to 12kg per residence from 12kg per firearms license holder. This change has a negative impact on our ability to compete and participate in our chosen sports.

The powders we use are produced in Australia (Thales) or imported (Alliant). With co-vid 19 shipping impacts (local and international) and changes to the Thales manufacturing plant in Mullwalla, production and availability of powder has been irregular with shortages common. This is expected to continue. To combat this Thales has increased minimum pack sizes to 1 kg and decreased production schedule frequency of some products forcing shooters to hold more stock. These shortages have been further exacerbated by DG shipping challenges (lack of carriers) within Australia leading shooters who use multiple powders to need to hold more volume where they use different calibres in their sport. Reducing the amount that can be legally stored in a house hold will further challenge shooters in many areas.

In summary this proposed change impacts law abiding citizens negatively.