

Submission to Members of the Tasmanian Parliament

Phillip Bigg – Tasmania President, Shooters Union Australia

10 November 2025

SHOOTERS UNION AUSTRALIA - TASMANIA BRANCH

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Re: Recommendation for Legislative Changes - Primary Produce Safety Amendment (Wild Game Meat Donation) Bill 2025

I am writing on behalf of **Shooters Union Australia** as the **Tasmanian President** to formally submit a **template recommendation** for legislative changes to the Primary Produce Safety Act 2011. This proposed Bill, attached for your consideration, aims to enable licensed recreational hunters to donate wild game meat to food banks and charities in a safe and practical manner, addressing both pest management and community food security needs in Tasmania.

As President of Shooters Union Australia's Tasmania branch, I represent a community of responsible firearms owners and hunters who contribute significantly to wildlife management. This Bill is presented as a **template for potential introduction as a Private Member's Bill or Government amendment**, drawing on successful models from New Zealand and other jurisdictions. It is not intended as a final draft but as a starting point to facilitate discussion and refinement through parliamentary processes.

Overview of the Proposed Bill

The Primary Produce Safety Amendment (Wild Game Meat Donation) Bill 2025 proposes amendments to allow **two complementary pathways** for donating wild game meat harvested by licensed hunters:

1. Regulated Schemes (Division 2A)

Structured, approved processes for larger-scale donations:

- Collection at designated drop-off points
- Hygiene guidelines for field dressing and chilling
- Accredited processing with **traceability, inspections, and biosecurity compliance**
- Distribution only to registered charities
- Labelling: **“Donated Wild Game Meat - Not for Sale - Processed under Approved Charitable Scheme”**

Inspired by New Zealand’s **“Hunters Helping the Hungry”** program.

2. Unregulated Direct Donations (Section 8A)

Simple, individual transfers without processing:

- Free transfer directly to registered charities or food banks
- Mandatory labelling: **“DONATED WILD GAME - NOT FOR SALE - GIVEN AS IS”**
- **End users must sign a liability waiver** accepting:
- Full responsibility for food safety and adverse reactions
- **Waiver of all legal rights** to sue donor, charity, or processor
- Builds on Civil Liability Act 2002 s35F protections

The Bill **prohibits sale**, focuses on **Deer and Wallaby control**, and includes a **two-year sunset clause** for review. It amends the Primary Produce Safety (Meat and Poultry) Regulations 2024 and aligns with the **Commercial Use of Wild-shot Deer Trial (to April 2026)**.

Impact: Could deliver **50-100 tonnes of protein annually** to Foodbank Tasmania and similar groups — **zero cost, zero waste**.

Call for Community Consultation

Once tabled in Parliament, I strongly urge that **comprehensive community consultation** be undertaken, including:

- Hunters
- Farmers
- Conservation groups
- Food relief organizations
- Biosecurity experts
- The broader public

Shooters Union Australia is committed to participating in any hearings, inquiries, or stakeholder forums to provide evidence-based insights from our members.

I respectfully request that you **consider introducing or supporting this Bill** in the House of Assembly or Legislative Council.

Enclosed: Full draft Bill with Explanatory Notes (PDF).

I am available for a **meeting or briefing** at your convenience.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. By enabling responsible hunters to contribute to food security, we can foster a more sustainable and compassionate Tasmania.

Yours sincerely,

Phillip Bigg
Tasmania President
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Enclosures:

1. Primary Produce Safety Amendment (Wild Game Meat Donation) Bill 2025
- Full Draft (PDF)
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