



NSW Police Force  
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# FIREARMS REGISTRY

## Silencer FACT Sheet

P 638

*Any person wishing to possess a silencer must be authorised by a prohibited weapon permit to lawfully possess a silencer. If the person seeks to use the silencer with a firearm, they must also be authorised to possess and use the firearm to which the silencer is attached.*

*This FACT sheet provides information on obtaining a prohibited weapon permit for a silencer and if applicable, a firearm permit for possession and use of the firearm to which the silencer is attached.*

### **What is a silencer?**

A silencer is defined as a silencer or any other device designed for muffling, reducing or stopping the noise created by the firing of a firearm.

### **Why are two permits required to possess and use a silencer?**

A silencer is classified under clause 4(3) of Schedule 1 of the *Weapons Prohibition Act 1998* (the Act) as a prohibited weapon.

To lawfully possess or use a prohibited weapon listed in Schedule 1 of the Act, a person must hold a prohibited weapon permit authorising possession or use of the weapon. In order to obtain such a permit a person must have a genuine reason for possession and use of the prohibited weapon.

If the silencer is attached to a firearm, the firearm is classified as a prohibited firearm by clause 10 of Schedule 1 of the *Firearms Act 1996*. Therefore, to lawfully possess and use a firearm with a silencer attached, a person must hold a firearms permit authorising possession and use of the prohibited firearm in addition to the prohibited weapon permit.

### **What genuine reason would apply to a permit for a silencer?**

A person who is authorised to possess and use firearms and who can provide evidence that establishes that they require to possess and use the silencer for an occupational/business purpose such as the control of feral animals, AND

The applicant can establish that there is a genuine requirement to muffle the noise of gunshot, either from a public safety perspective, a personal perspective or where the situation requires that other animals in the vicinity are not disturbed by the sound of gunshot, OR

A person who can establish that they require to possess a silencer for business purposes, such as a prohibited weapon dealer, theatrical armourer or museum.

### **Who would be able to establish a genuine reason to possess and use a silencer?**

A person employed by a government agency, such as an employee of National Parks and Wildlife or the Livestock Health and Pest Authority and who is required to control feral animals or vermin by use of a firearm, OR

A person who is a licensed contract shooter and contracted to control feral animals or vermin on behalf of a government agency or on behalf of another person by use of a firearm, OR

A person on behalf of a registered pest control business who can establish a genuine reason for possession and use of a silencer to control feral animals or vermin by use of a firearm, OR

A prohibited weapons dealer, theatrical armourer, collector or person on behalf of a museum.

### **What is the term of the permit?**

The permit will be issued for a maximum term of up to 5 years.

### **How much will the permit cost?**

The prescribed fee for a prohibited weapon permit is \$127. The prescribed fee for a firearms permit is \$75.

Your payment must accompany the application. You may pay by cheque or money order made payable to the NSW Police Force or by filling out the credit card details on the reverse of the application form.

### **What level of safe storage applies to this permit?**

Level 2 safe storage. See 'Safe Storage Prohibited Weapons Levels 1, 2 & 3' available on the Safe Storage page on the Firearms Registry Internet site.

### **What do I need to send with the application?**

- \* You must provide as part of this application a passport style colour photo of yourself endorsed on the back with 'This is a true photo of (name)' and signed by a JP or police officer.
- \* In addition, you must provide as part of this application documentation totalling 100 points for proof of identity (see *100 point identification fact sheet*).
- \* The applicant must provide evidence to support the genuine reason to possess and use a silencer. Evidence in the form of contracts, a letter from the employer or a letter from the landholder or government agency authorising feral control programs on the property.
- \* Description and location of the land, including the demographic of surrounding areas.
- \* Details of the firearms to be used with the silencer.
- \* Types of feral animals to be shot.
- \* Details on public safety measures employed during each animal control program.
- \* Provide firearms permit application P634 form for issue of a firearms permit authorising possession and use of a prohibited firearm.

### **How do I complete the application form?**

The P638 'Application for a Prohibited Weapon Permit' form and the P638 Prohibited Weapons Schedule apply to this permit. These forms are used for a new application or to re-apply for a Prohibited Weapon Permit.

Applications for a firearms permit are made on a P634 form. Please see FACT Sheet 'Commissioners Firearm Permit'.

Do not send a photocopy of the forms, print within the boxes, do not mark boxes that do not apply, use CAPITAL LETTERS and BLACK INK; DO NOT USE STAPLES.



### Section A - Applicant Details

The 'Last Name' & 'Given names' box should show your full legal name. This should be the name on your birth certificate, marriage certificate and change of name certificate or passport. Complete your DOB, drivers licence, contact details including mobile phone number and email address.

List any other names by which you have been known and supply details.

### Section B - Residential Address

Insert your full residential address here.

### Section C - Postal Address

If your postal address is the same as your residential address mark the box with an 'X', otherwise, insert your postal address here.

### Section D - Business, Club, Government Agency Details

Complete business or organisation name, trading name, business address, phone numbers and postal address.

### Section E - Permit Type

Place an 'X' in the box 'Other'.

### Section F - Safekeeping Address of Weapons

This section should be completed providing the address at which the prohibited weapons will be stored and details of the arrangements for the safekeeping and storage. Attach a separate sheet if there is insufficient space.

### Section G - Personal History

Please answer all questions by marking the appropriate 'Yes' or 'No' box. If you responded 'Yes' to any of the questions, please provide an attachment with details.

### Section H - Declaration

The application form must be signed and dated by the applicant in the presence of a witness. The witness must be 18 years of age or over.

By signing the declaration you are confirming that:  
All the information provided on the application is true and correct;  
You understand it is an offence to supply false or misleading information;  
AND

You agree to the NSW Police Force making enquiries to establish that the information you have supplied in relation to the application is true and correct.

### Section I - Credit Card Authority

If you wish to pay by credit card, indicate whether Mastercard or Visa, fill out cardholder details in full, sign and date.

### Related Information

See Fact Sheets:  
'100 point identification',  
'Safe Storage Prohibited Weapons Level 1, 2 & 3',  
'Recommended Safe Storage for Schedule 1 Prohibited Weapons'.

### Check List

- Completed P638 form
- P638 Prohibited Weapons Schedule
- Passport sized colour photo
- Proof of ID
- Evidence of genuine reason
- Land and types of feral animals
- Firearms for use of silencer
- Payment with application = \$127

### In addition

- Firearms permit application P634 to authorise possession and use of the firearm to which the silencer is attached.

## Firearms Registry

### Address

Locked Bag 1  
Murwillumbah NSW 2484

### Telephone

1300362562

### Interstate

02 66708590

### Fax

02 66708526

### Email

permits@police.nsw.gov.au  
OR  
firearmsenq@police.nsw.gov.au

### Website

[www.police.nsw.gov.au/firearms](http://www.police.nsw.gov.au/firearms)

### Where can I find more information?

The information provided in the FACT Sheet is for general guidance only. Applicants and licensees should familiarise themselves with the *Firearms Act 1996* and the *Firearms Regulation 2006*, which are available on the NSW Legislation website - [www.legislation.nsw.gov.au](http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au).



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