

Firearms Registry Consultative Council - Communique 1

Meeting of 9 April 2021

Assistant Commissioner Scott Cook APM, Police Prosecutions and Licensing Enforcement Command (PPLEC), welcomed all members to the inaugural meeting of the Firearms Registry Consultative Council.

Members of the Council were advised that:

- A Council Code of Conduct will be prepared and circulated for comment prior to the next meeting
- A change management team has been on site at the Firearms Registry supporting business improvement measures
- “Gun Safe”, the Firearms Registry’s digital firearm management and customer application portal, has enhanced processes for firearm applications and delivered a new work management system for the Firearms Registry
- The sunset of the Firearms and Weapons Amendment (COVID 19) Regulation 2020 took effect on 15 April 2021. Information has been made available on the Firearms Registry’s website
- The Coronial findings into the deaths of Jack, Jennifer and John Edwards were handed down on Wednesday 7 April 2021
- Commonwealth, State and Territory Ministers agreed to a permanent firearms amnesty to improve public safety by reducing the number of unregistered firearms in Australian communities. The amnesty is scheduled to commence in the latter half of 2021.
- The revised Peak Firearm Association recommendations are in the final stages with a pathway for new associations to be considered. Upon endorsement, the revised recommendations will be circulated to the Peak Firearms Associations
- Safe storage requests by licence holders should be directed to Local Police; these cannot be arranged via the Firearms Registry.

Members of the Council discussed:

- The impact of the decision in *Bankowski V Commissioner of Police (2020)* in relation to certain current Category D firearms licence holders. These are specific to firearms that fall into item 5 of the schedule of prohibited firearms being: *any self-loading centre-fire rifle of a kind that is designed or adapted for military purposes*
- The challenges of appearance-based controls, being the prohibition of certain firearms based on their appearance rather than functionality. The NSW Police Force (NSWPF) is considering opportunities to classify firearms prior to those firearms entering NSW and to develop processes that will assist industry and licence holders in understanding classifications
- The status of interstate club approvals

Where can I find more information?

www.police.nsw.gov.au/firearms

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E: firearms@police.nsw.gov.au | Ph: 1300 362 562
Locked Bag 5102, Parramatta NSW 2124

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The following matters were raised in general business:

- The broadening of the Firearms Registry adjudication process following the Edwards coronial inquiry
- The publication of performance data from Gun Safe to provide visibility on application status and timeliness of processing
- Dealer licence renewals
- Options to enhance Service NSW products by replacing dealer licences and minor permits with photo card licences.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for June 2021.