

## Firearms Registry Consultative Council - Communique 2

### Meeting of 11 June 2021

Assistant Commissioner Scott Cook APM, Police Prosecutions and Licensing Enforcement Command (PPLEC), welcomed all members to the second meeting of the Firearms Registry Consultative Council. The new Commander of the Firearms Registry, Superintendent Cameron Lindsay, was introduced to the Council.

#### Ballistics Investigation Section

Members of the Council were given an information briefing from the Ballistics Investigation Section of the NSW Police Force. This included:

- Role of the Ballistics Investigation Section (BIS), including the classification of firearms for the Firearms Registry and ministerial advice
- Firearms legislation, resources used to make determinations and validated methodology

Members discussed:

- National paintball regulation
- The inconsistency of firearms classifications across jurisdictions nationally and the financial impact of this
- Classifications based on function rather than appearance

#### Gun Safe

Members of the Council were provided a showcase of Gun Safe, the Firearms Registry's digital online platform, which includes the Firearms Dealers Portal, licence and renewal, and permit to acquire applications. Gun Safe also permits a customer to change their safe storage address. Forthcoming services include: amnesty registration and reporting, stock reporting and interstate acquisitions.

#### Firearms Registry

Members of the Council were advised on:

- Progress made by the change management team at the Firearms Registry, and staff supporting the Firearms Registry at PoliceLink (permanent) and Sydney Olympic Park (temporary)
- Increasing the capability and capacity of field-based staff in the firearms regulation space (Operation Exert)

#### Industry Sector

Members of the Council discussed:

- Athlete readiness for international competitions and considerations on how to increase opportunities for training for elite athletes
- Appreciation by the industry of the NSW Police Force's support for Gun Safe. Measures were discussed to communicate the benefits of the system and remove impediments of all dealers onboarding. The onboarding of all dealers onto Gun Safe was supported by members
- Communication issues relating to local licensing police and licensees
- NSW Annual Farmers' conference to be held in July 2021

Where can I find more information?

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

NSW Police Force Firearms Registry  
E: [firearms@police.nsw.gov.au](mailto:firearms@police.nsw.gov.au) | Ph: 1300 362 562  
Locked Bag 5102, Parramatta NSW 2124

# FIREARMS REGISTRY

- The Commonwealth Government is considering a package of firearms and weapons reforms to the *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956*. The Department of Home Affairs is now inviting public submissions by 25 June 2021
- Section 31(3A)(a) of the *Firearms Act 1996* and a proposal for police to conduct safe storage inspections in lieu of clubs.
- The increase of club attendance levels with the easing of COVID restrictions

Members of the Council discussed:

- **Coroner's Inquiry (Edwards)** – Members' feedback on the summary of NSW Police Force recommendations
- **National Permanent Firearms Amnesty** - NSW firearms dealers have been provided with information relating to the amnesty and the Gun Safe amnesty module is on track for delivery. Firearms can be surrendered at a participating NSW firearms dealer and/or police station. If a firearm is to be registered under the amnesty it must be done at a dealer already using Gun Safe. Legislative amendment to *Firearms Regulation 2017* to be implemented before the commencement of the amnesty in the latter half of 2021
- **Category D firearms (item 5)** – Members' feedback on 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.
- **Interstate club approvals** – Advice has been received and the Firearms Registry will communicate directly with affected interstate clubs
- **Peak Firearm Association Ministerial Review** – The review is in progress and recommendations will be considered by the Minister

The following matters were raised in general business:

- Proposed Firearms Registry Consultative Council secretariat timeframes
- Responsibility of the range approval holder at shared ranges
- NSW Police Force integration with the Australian Firearms Information Network is on track. The Australian Firearms Information Network (AFIN) helps police and other law enforcement agencies manage the registration, licensing and movement of firearms coming into Australia and moving between our states and territories

*The next Council meeting is scheduled for September 2021.*