

Firearms Registry Consultative Council - Communique 6 Meeting of 16 June 2022

Assistant Commissioner Scott Whyte APM, Police Prosecutions and Licensing Enforcement Command (PPLEC), welcomed all members. Mr Whyte advised the Council that the NSW Government announced a review of the Firearms Registry was being undertaken by former Assistant Commissioner Geoff McKechnie. The review is to ensure that the processes around licensing of firearms are robust, timely and efficient.

Firearms Registry update

The Firearms Registry reported that:

- Significant work on reducing processing timeframes has resulted service delivery improvements across the Firearms Registry.
- There remains a significant number of internal review applications to be considered but the Firearms Registry is on track to have the historical workload cleared by the end of 2022
- The Firearms Registry ran a Club Information and Engagement day in early June at Homebush, which saw almost 200 individuals from clubs across NSW attend. Positive feedback for the event means that future events will be run, including in regional locations.
- Planning for the second phase of the Gun Safe platform (the Firearms Registry's digital platform for customers and industry) is underway.
- The Firearms Registry publishes a report on high volume transactions and average processing times on its [website](#). This includes monthly data about NSW's contribution to the National Permanent Firearms Amnesty .

Industry / Sector update

Industry members raised the following:

- An interest in establishing a donation scheme of firearms from ageing or no longer participating shooters to new or junior shooters.
- World Cup Shooting competitions are being held in Italy and Azerbaijan this year.
- A dispute resolution process should be inserted into the Firearms Registry Shooting Range Standards.
- Industry provided support for NSW to pursue a national firearms identification number for each firearm in the Australian Firearm Identification Network (AFIN).
- NSW Farmers' annual conference is scheduled for July 2022
- Industry request for the conversion of paper minors' permits to cards. NSW Police is working with Service NSW on the digitisation of a range of firearms cards.
- It was confirmed that NSW has a five year exemption for firearms dealers from the Automatic Mutual Recognition scheme.

Where can I find more information?

www.police.nsw.gov.au/firearms

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

Firearms Legislative Proposals

The Firearms Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 was introduced into Parliament on 17 May 2022 and received assent on 6 June 2022. The Bill removed some barriers faced by pest controllers and farmers with Category D licences in NSW to access fit-for-purpose firearms. Primarily, the Bill clarified that certain self-loading centre-fire rifles and self-loading shotguns which are not designed or adapted for military purposes can be authorised under a category D firearms licence.

The Bill also ensures that Category D licence holders will be able to retain possession of their Category D firearms that have been previously acquired in accordance with the Firearms Act, even if that type of firearm later becomes prohibited by being subsequently adapted for military purposes (which could be anywhere in the world).

Additionally, the Bill provided additional licensing periods of 1, 2, or 5 years for primary producers with Category D licences.

Weapons Prohibition Act—proposal

A paper on noise protection (suppressors) was given by an industry member.

Shooting on ranges by elite shooters without supervision

A paper on the challenges for elite shooters to train without the presence of a range officer was presented by an industry member.

Club and Range— proposed Gun Safe portal

A paper was provided by an industry member on options for the forthcoming Gun Safe portal for clubs and ranges. Members were advised that peak firearm associations and clubs and ranges will be consulted throughout the process, as was done when building the dealer Gun Safe portal.

Participation Analysis

Significant discussion came about from a paper on mandatory participation for longarm shooting. A formal response is to be sought from each member and a briefing will be presented to the Police Executive on the responses.

Serving ADF members and use of Department of Veteran Affairs cards

A paper was given by an industry member on ADF members and their use of DVA cards as part of an application. The particulars were to be considered out of session. Members were advised that work is underway as to how the Firearms Registry considers mental health issues holistically.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for September 2022.