

Firearms Registry Consultative Council - Communique 3 Meeting of 17 September 2021

Assistant Commissioner Scott Cook APM, Police Prosecutions and Licensing Enforcement Command (PPLEC), welcomed all members to the third meeting of the Firearms Registry Consultative Council. This meeting was conducted by Teams (video conference) due to COVID lockdowns.

Firearms Registry update

An overview of Gun Safe transactions completed to date (as of September 2021) was provided being:

- 68,000 applications in total
- Of these, approximately 35,000 are permits to acquire
- Upwards of 32,000 are a mix of new licences and reapplications of licences

Firearms Registry back logs are being addressed with a focus on licence renewals and escalated customer contacts where a customer has contacted the Firearms Registry via telephone. The focus is now on the approximately 2000 new licence applications that were received just prior to the commencement of Gun Safe (February 2021). Once these are cleared, the focus will shift to applications being considered for internal review. The Firearms Registry was commended by industry members for significantly reducing the back logs.

The Firearms Registry has introduced a new, simple way for people to be able to acquire firearms that they have inherited. Further information can be found here: [Firearms - Deceased Estates - NSW Police Public Site](#).

Members expressed concern about the standard of correspondence leaving the FR. The Firearms Registry advised that it is anticipated that standardised Gun Safe templates will improve consistency and content of correspondence. Correspondence is being reviewed to ensure quality.

Members expressed concerns regarding police interpretation of safe storage inspection requirements by police conducting the inspections. Mr Cook acknowledged concerns and advised that in his capacity as Corporate Sponsor for Firearms, it is his remit to drive further education and training for frontline/licensing police.

Industry / Sector update

Industry members discussed the impacts of COVID and professional well-being. Some members expressed appreciation for the flexibility with attendance requirements at ranges during COVID. There was discussion about whether open air ranges could operate safely under a COVID safe plan.

An overview of Olympic/Para Olympic shooting results was given, and high-performance reviews are underway.

Members raised the concerns around certain Category D firearms being determined as prohibited (refer to previous communiques).

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

National Permanent Amnesty

The Gun Safe amnesty module is working incredibly well, and NSW's amnesty response has been strong. Crime Stoppers' local engagement will commence when appropriate (COVID dependant).

Consultation paper – COVID-19, military style firearms, and safe storage certification

The Council was given a presentation on proposed changes on:

- Flexibility relating to mandatory attendances
- Flexibility relating to annual accreditation for security guards
- The exemption relating to Category D firearms deemed as prohibited
- The safe storage certification requirement by clubs for category H permit to acquire applications

Crimped Magazines

A paper on legislative proposals to crimped magazines was discussed and the issue is to remain on the legislative agenda.

Proposal to amend internal review procedures

The internal review procedure was discussed, and feedback given by Council members. Mr Cook explained that criminal intelligence holdings are not released to an applicant because of legislative protections against the release of these holdings.

Unconditional licence proposal and online application process

A proposal for a stronger focus on the fit and proper person test and a streamlining of other regulation was put forward to the Council.

Long arms requirements

A proposal to review the participation requirements for long arms is to be held over until the December meeting of the Council.

The following matters were raised in general business:

- The requirement for an individual to be nominated for a range approval
- NSW Police has been engaging with interstate policing agencies about Gun Safe
- Consideration of photographic licences for dealers and minors
- A member has resigned from the Council. An appointment process for the position will be activated

The next Council meeting is scheduled for December 2021.