

Firearms Registry Consultative Council - Communique 5

Meeting of 10 March 2022

Assistant Commissioner Scott Cook APM, Police Prosecutions and Licensing Enforcement Command (PPLEC) welcomed all members to the fifth meeting of the Firearms Registry Consultative Council. Newly appointed Associate Director Janelle Ivankovic, Service Delivery Firearms Registry introduced to the Council. The meeting was conducted by Teams (video conference) due to the severe weather event causing flooding in NSW.

Council members discussed confidentiality within the Council and adherence to the Code of Conduct. Council member consensus was the current Code of Conduct did not require amending but that it will be added as a standing agenda item at each meeting in the future.

Firearms Registry update

The Firearms Registry is continuing with the implementation of the realigned structure.

- The Review and Advisory Team, responsible for internal reviews has been increased to 8 staff.
- Recent flood emergency saw the Firearms Registry enact the Business Continuity Plan (BCP). Business as usual has since resumed, with some delays in internal reviews and suspensions. Information on the website.
- Firearms Registry compliance staff are currently assisting with safe storage in flood affected areas and will provide support to licence/permit holders in regard to safe storage concerns and appropriate solutions.

Industry / Sector update

The Council was advised of the appointment of new CEO, Shooting Australia. International teams will begin to compete again with an emphasis now on the 2026 Paris Olympics.

Council members discussed the impact of the recent floods and although shooters are undertaking compliance shoots at an accelerated rate, concerns were raised that mandatory attendances may be impacted by the recent weather events.

Consultation paper – Firearms Legislative Proposals

Council members continued to discuss the legislative proposals outlined in the document. Members agreed to continue these discussions.

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

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Recognition of shooting matches

A paper was presented with a proposal to reconsider current practice of recognising shooting matches. The process of recognising matches is in a trial phase, with members of the Council taking part in the trial working group.

Reloading components

A paper was presented on the limited stock availability of powder and primers and how this may impact mandatory participation requirements. Issue compounded by the closure of factories that manufacture the powder and restrictions on how much powder can be legally held.

Prescribed Blood Alcohol Concentration limits for the possession and use of firearms

A paper was presented on whether prescribed blood alcohol concentration limits for licence holders could be introduced into legislation. General discussion took place around what would constitute an acceptable measurable level and how would it be policed, with concerns raised the proposal allows for over regulation of firearm holders. Further consultation to occur.

Establishment of a framework for the training of armed security guards and issuance of firearms instructor permits

Council members discussion around developing a consistent training package for armed security guards and issuance of firearms instructor permits, with units of competency, to be managed by the appropriate bodies. An out-of-session working group was formed to work through this matter.

The following matters were raised in general business by council members:

- Permits to Acquire
- Mutual recognition of occupational licences
- Sunsetting COVID provisions
- Invalid licence notifications
- Gun Safe acceptance in other jurisdictions
- Air pistol participation requirements

The next Council meeting is scheduled for June 2022.