



NSW Police Force

SLED ADVISORY COUNCIL

Communiqué Meeting 19 – 23 February 2017

Cameron Smith, Director, Security Licensing & Enforcement Directorate (SLED) opened the meeting and welcomed Council members to the first meeting of their two year appointment. Mr Smith re-affirmed that SLED's role is to administer the security legislation and not to determine/comment on government policy. There was a brief discussion arising on examples of issues that were outside the Council's remit, i.e. whether certain sectors should be licensed and whether the eligibility criteria for licences was appropriate for all sectors.

Mr Smith provided an overview to the new members of SLED's regulatory activities, including that:

- Security licence numbers had increased by over 30% since SLED's establishment due to its enforcement and industry education activities.
- In addition to the workload implications of increased security licences, since its establishment SLED has also assumed the additional responsibilities of:
 - providing probity assessment services to NSW Fair Trading in relation to applicants for, and holders of, licences under the *Tattoo Parlours Act 2012*
 - providing probity assessment services to the Combat Sports Authority in relation to applicants for, and holders of, registration under the *Combat Sports Act 2013*
 - providing probity assessment services to Office of Drug Control in relation to applicants for licences relating to medicinal cannabis
 - providing probity assessment services to the Department of Primary Industries in relation to applicants for licences under the *Poppy Industry Act 2016*
 - registering scrap metal dealers under the *Scrap Metal Industry Act 2016*
- The Legislative Assembly Legal Affairs Committee conducted an Inquiry into Debt Recovery in NSW in mid 2014 and published its report in November 2014. In response to that report, the Government determined that:
 - NSW Fair Trading would assume responsibility for regulating commercial agents
 - Private investigators would continue to be regulated by the NSW Police Force, but as a class of licence under the *Security Industry Act 1997*.
The *Security Industry Amendment (Private Investigators) Act 2016* and the *Fair Trading Amendment (Commercial Agents) Act 2016* are expected to commence later this year. Affected licensees have been advised accordingly.

Scott Hunter, Acting General Manager, Industry Regulation provided members with an overview of SLED's Industry Regulation unit and its recent activities. Mr Hunter indicated that SLED regularly targets unlicensed operators in both the manpower and technical sectors and has undertaken a number of regional operations to ensure state-wide coverage of our enforcement activities.

It was reinforced to members that SLED cannot enforce industry compliance with industrial obligations but refers all relevant information received to the Fair Work Ombudsman, Office of State Revenue, and the Australian Tax Office.

Michelle Morgan, General Manager, Operations provided an overview of SLED's Operations unit and its recent activities. Ms Morgan highlighted the success of SLED's online licence renewal facility with approximately 85% of licences now being renewed online.

Ms Morgan discussed the fact that applications for licences made under Mutual Recognition continue to be received at a high level, though the proportion is diminishing due to the closure of interstate training organisations involved in 'certificate selling'.

Members were advised that SLED receives approximately 100 security licence applications each day and that, during 2016, SLED refused approximately 1000 applications and revoked approximately 800 licences.

The agenda paper submitted by Daniel Lewkovitz recommending the audit and inspection of SLED Advisory Council member's businesses was discussed. Members agreed that such audits would be appropriate, but that SLED would need to determine their timing/appropriateness with consideration to other audit priorities.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for May 2017.