

## What's New

## Deloitte Review of NSW Police Force Firearms Registry

The NSW Government has approved the public release of the 2013 Deloitte Report on the 'Review of the NSW Police Force Firearms Registry' (review).

The Deloitte Report (report) can be viewed by clicking on the following link: www.police.nsw.gov.au/online\_services/firearms/news\_and\_events

The review was conducted under the governance of a Steering Group and assessed the NSW Police Force Firearms Registry (Firearms Registry) functions and processes to recommend business practice and IT system solutions. It was not designed to assess the effectiveness of the legislative framework that governs firearms and prohibited weapons in NSW.

The project informed the overhaul of the Firearms Registry's IT systems, for which the funding over a three year period was allocated. The Firearms Registry's proposed new online system will enable the Firearms Registry to interact with customers, firearm clubs and dealers more efficiently, in turn helping to improve the quality of customer interactions.

Deloitte recommended the implementation of a more transparent fee schedule, once the Firearms Registry's new online system is completed. The report noted that many stakeholders are open to changes in licence fees, provided such changes are accompanied by improved service levels.

The report recommended the move of paintball activities from the Firearms Registry. It has since been announced that a review of paintball regulation will be conducted by the Department of Finance, Services and Innovation (DFSI), with a view to transferring the regulation of paintball from the

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Firearms Registry. Refer to 'What's New – Transfer of Paintball Regulation'.

Deloitte noted that there is a perception from some stakeholders that range inspections had become overly prescriptive, confrontational and that the process is not consultative. The report suggests that another agency, such as Sport and Recreation are better placed to manage the inspection of ranges. There is no proposal to transfer the inspection of ranges to another agency. Since the report, the Firearms Registry has adopted a more consultative approach with ranges and has had good successes in reaching mutually agreed outcomes with a number of ranges.

Deloitte recommended that the Firearms Registry move to a risk based approach to its current regulatory compliance processes. It was noted that safe storage inspections of private firearms are extremely resource intensive. This is principally an operational issue; however, in response, the Firearms Registry developed and implemented with operational police a risk based inspection program. This program targets safe storage inspections based on various risk indicators, which may include high volume firearm holdings, types of firearms or firearms stored in areas with high levels of firearm thefts.

Any enquiries on this matter can be submitted via the Contact Us page on this website.