

Communiqué 20 February 2020

Members were welcomed to the first SLED Advisory Council meeting for 2020.

Cameron Smith, Director, Security Licensing and Enforcement Directorate (SLED) opened the meeting with a number of general updates including news of the formation of the new Police Prosecutions and Licensing Enforcement Command (PPLEC). Under the direction of Assistant Commissioner Scott Cook, PPLEC brings together Police Prosecutions, the Operational Legal Advice Unit, SLED and the Firearms Registry.

Mr Smith provided members with an update regarding the proposed amendments to the *Security Industry Act 1997* which are now unlikely to be progressed by the end of the year. The amendments are expected to provide greater clarity and improve licensees' awareness of their compliance obligations and SLED's regulatory powers.

Lisa Stockley, Assistant Director (Industry Regulation) provided the following update and overview of her team's recent activities.

- SLED continues to present to owners and major event operators at Crowded Places forums across the state. The forums are hosted by the Capability and Protective Security Group of the NSW Police Force Counter Terrorism and Special Tactics Command
- The Training Regulation team has suspended the approval of an Approved Organisation (AO) after concerns were identified regarding the validity of student qualifications. The suspension has affected around 240 students and the organisation is undertaking a rectification process before its approval can be reinstated
- SLED has been working with Service NSW on the proof of concept for the proposed pre-licence knowledge test. SLED will provide Service NSW with sample questions and data on new entrants as part of the development process. The test will initially be for new class 1 applicants, but it could be expanded to include class 1 renewals and master licence applicants in the future
- ASQA has extended the transition period for the current training package to 1 July 2020 following representations made by RTOs. Meanwhile, SLED has engaged a content assessment developer to work on Certificate II and III assessments. Feedback will be sought from AOs when the work is completed
- In line with industry consultation, SLED has asked the developer to write the Certificate III defensive techniques as a stand-alone unit, rather than a cluster, to allow the unit to be delivered in the 1AC Security Licence Course if elected by the AO or the student
- SLED is assisting the Firearms Registry to implement a new procedure for safety accreditation and competency requirements for Provisional Category H licensees (armed security).

Ms Stockley also asked members to circulate a discussion paper within their networks seeking feedback on the competency requirements for class 2A licences following the training package changes.

Michelle Morgan, Assistant Director (Determinations) spoke about SLED's ongoing monitoring of licensees. As part of this discussion, Ms Morgan gave examples of licensees who had been asked to show cause why their licence should not be revoked and case studies of licences that had been revoked.

Mr Smith later introduced **Janelle Green** to the Council as the recently appointed **Assistant Director (Service Delivery)**. Ms Green said she is looking forward to working with industry stakeholders and provided a brief overview of plans to branch into social media and to focus on improving online and educational content for licence holders and applicants. Ms Green advised that Jodi Leadbeatter from NSW Fair Trading has been appointed as SLED's new Manager, Licensing Services.

Ms Green reported the soft launch of the new online application portal for operative licences had been successful and the service was performing well. SLED will soon begin promoting the service to encourage applicants to apply online instead of via post. She also said the team have been working on a plan to increase the frequency of Photographic Advice letters to twice weekly to improve the turnaround of successful applications.

Council members made representations regarding the legislative requirements around sign on registers. Kathy Pavlich, Security and Risk Management teacher, TAFE NSW, asked whether staff were permitted to provide electronic incident register records to SLED. Ms Stockley advised the master licence holder should be able to provide near immediate access to one month of records on site and that providing information the next day would be in breach of the legislation. She said if information could be obtained within a reasonable time during the inspection, SLED and licensing police generally accepted this.

Tamara Bayly, Head of Compliance and Quality, SNP Security (Certis Group Company) then asked if sign-on registers could be shared, and what information they would need if they were. Mr Smith advised sign-on registers were introduced to ensure master licence holders are compliant with their allowed number of provided persons and to record who carried on security activities at a particular place and time. He said if registers were shared, they must contain all necessary information to support these objectives, including identifying which master licensees have provided which security operatives.

Council members were invited to raise any further items for discussion, following which the meeting was closed. The next Council meeting is scheduled for May 2020.