



## MINUTES : Firearms Community Advisory Forum

<b>SUBJECT</b>	Firearms Community Advisory Forum
<b>DATE</b>	Thursday 3 December 2015
<b>TIME</b>	0930 – 1230
<b>VENUE</b>	Level 15 Conference Room 3 & 4
<b>ATTENDEES</b>	Catherine Petrey, Chris Scahill, Julia Penney, Geoff Dunn, Sandra Keenan, Nicole McKee, Paul Clarke, Garth Den Heyer, Alastair Williams, Rob Ngamoki, Paul Gatland, John Herbert, Kirsty Marshall, Andrew Edgcombe, Debbie Wakker, Ray Vine, Nathan Watson, Trevor Dyke
<b>APOLOGIES</b>	Steve Privett, , John Howat

### MINUTES:

The Chair welcomed members, followed by evacuation and personal convenience re-cap and round table introduction.

#### CROSS AGENCY FIREARMS WORKING GROUP:

Police provided an introduction and current update on firearms administration and management as a background to the establishment of the National Multi-agency Firearms Working Group (NMFWG).

The group has members from Police, Customs, Internal Affairs, and Foreign Affairs (and an invitation has been extended to the Police Association to participate). The NMFWG will promote consistent decision making and delivery of connected, cost effective firearms management and services across Government.

This work will further enhance the existing 'value for money' culture within the four agencies, focusing on delivering better public value while ensuring that public safety across all facets of firearms management, internal obligations, domestic importation, foreign exportation, and licensing and compliance is maintained.

The five workstreams are: People; Processes; Systems; Environment; and Alignment.

It is a large undertaking and only in the planning stages at this point. It will involve a push toward using technology including RealMe identity processes. Stakeholder input will be a required part of the work going forward, which will include the Firearms Community Advisory Forum.

#### CONSIDERATION OF DISCUSSION DOCUMENT ON FIREARMS ISSUES TABLED AT LAST MEETING:

The majority of the points in this document had been covered in the previous discussion. Police is aware of the delays in issuing licences and continues to work on reducing these. There have been two additional positions (to be 12 month secondments) advertised in Response and Operations Group to address this.

The question was asked regarding the revenue collected by Police from fees for firearm licences and endorsements and how this relates to Police's costs in administering the Arms Act. The revenue collected in 2013/14 was \$3,103,723 and in 2014/15 it was \$4,226,946. The NMFWG is, within its workstreams, in the process of analysing costs and will be in a position to share this information in 2016. Police advised that some analysis of costs was completed in two of the larger Districts, with results showing that firearms users' contribution through fees was approximately 50% of Police's costs with Police making up the other 50%.

## **INTERNET FIREARMS SALES**

A review of 'online sales' was started approximately 1 month prior to the media attention created by Heather du Plessis-Allan and her purchase with a mail order form of a firearm without a firearms licence. An audit had also been undertaken of 300 mail order forms (section 43A forms) received by 3 selected retailers. Out of the 300 forms only one had an issue which was subsequently found to be genuine and was caused by poor writing of details. Police has created a simple and effective change by making it a requirement that the signed section 43A form filled out by the purchaser and countersigned by Police must be sent from Police direct to the seller. It was commented by two Forum members that this was a good step forward and good follow-up by Police.

## **UPDATE ON MOUNTAIN SAFETY COUNCIL (MSC) REVIEW:**

Over the last 18 months the MSC undertook a comprehensive review of its operations, which resulted in fundamental changes across the organisation focused on increasing effectiveness and relevance in relation to outdoor safety. MSC confirmed that they are still delivering firearms safety training (as per agreement with Police) and their commitment to firearms and hunter safety has not wavered. MSC advised that the wider organisational change process and associated misinformation in the sector has caused some emotive reactions from MSC members, including firearms instructors, and approximately 63 firearms instructors had handed in their 'notice'. To ensure continued provision of firearms safety lectures, some instructors continue delivering firearms safety training, despite their resignation from MSC. A discussion regarding the requirement to be warranted by MSC to deliver the training took place and it was confirmed that Regulation 14 of the Arms Regulations 1992 gave the Police the ability to approve any person to instruct. MSC continues to have an Agreement with Police to deliver firearms safety training.

MSC confirmed that it was committed to resolving the current concerns, and further discussion on the topic would be held outside of this forum with relevant organisations, as required. MSC stated they have communicated regularly with their firearms network, and are committed to continued communication with members of the Firearms Community Advisory Forum.

## **FIREARMS OUTDOOR SAFETY REVIEW:**

Police advised that draft Terms of Reference on the proposed Review, prepared by the Department of Conservation, had been sent to some agencies for feedback. Police had sent their feedback which included that the review should be about safe practices with firearms for hunters (rather than hunter safety and general gun use) and illegal hunting with firearms. Police has also recommended that COLFO be asked to be included in stakeholder engagement.

## **UPDATE ON FIREARMS LEGISLATION:**

Police advised that penalties in the Arms Act, permits for the manufacture of, and conversion of A category firearms to, MSSAs, and permits for the import of any firearm parts are all matters under consideration for reform. Proposals on these matters will be put before the Minister to decide what process will be undertaken; either a Cabinet paper or a public discussion document. It is now intended this paper will be submitted early in the New Year for the new Minister of Police to consider. . Firearm Prohibition Orders are to be progressed as a separate Bill.

## **COMMUNICATIONS PLAN**

The Chair reminded the Forum of Chatham House rules. It was stated that if anything was not clear a confirmation should be sought in the first instance from Police.

The Forum was in agreement with the draft Communications Plan.

It was agreed to have the Minutes and Summary sent out to Forum members quicker than previously.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

There was a discussion about the POL 67X - the form used for an endorsement specification that permits possession of a MSSA not being acquired from a third party (eg when a person's A Category firearm is being converted to an MSSA). This must have Police approval and if there are concerns about how this is being applied they can be directed to Firearms Group at Police National Headquarters. The topic of stolen guns and how to get information out to dealers and other relevant people was discussed. It was considered that the most effective and efficient way of doing this would probably involve an online database that could be accessed through the Police Website. There could also be security tips for the public online.

There was discussion about the death of a person who possesses firearms who is survived by a partner without a licence and how best to follow up and ensure an appropriate process is adhered to. It was noted that such contingency planning should be assessed when interviews are being undertaken during the licence application process.

A further discussion document from a member of the Forum was tabled and distributed for discussion at the next Forum meeting in May 2016.

The Wildlife (Powers) Amendment Bill was introduced on 2 December and it was mentioned that if, under the new provisions, a Department of Conservation ranger seized firearms and did not have a licence they would be acting unlawfully. Police said they would look into whether there was such an issue with the Bill.

Meeting closed 12.10pm.

**AGREED ACTIONS:**

<b>ACTION</b>	<b>ASSIGNED TO</b>	<b>COMPLETED DATE</b>
EMAIL CHRIS'S PRESENTATION ON NMFVG TO FORUM MEMBERS	SANDRA KEENAN	COMPLETED
ADD GENERIC EMAIL FOR SUGGESTIONS AND COMMENTS TO NMFVG WORKSTREAMS	JULIA PENNEY	24 DECEMBER 2015
PROVIDE FORUM WITH FIGURE ON POLICE REVENUE FROM FEES FOR FIREARMS LICENCES AND ENDORSEMENTS	JULIA PENNEY	COMPLETED
DISCUSSION WITH MSC ON THE FIREARMS SAFETY TRAINING	ROLY WILLIAMS GARTH DEN HEYER	24 DECEMBER 2015
FINAL MINUTES AND SUMMARY BY 18 DECEMBER 2015	POLICE	COMPLETED
FOLLOW UP ON POSSIBLE ISSUE WITH WILDLIFE (POWERS) AMENDMENT BILL	GEOFF DUNN	UPDATE AT MAY 2016 MEETING
CONTINGENCY PLANNING FOR DISPOSAL OF FIREARMS ON DEATH AS A POSSIBLE QUESTION AT LICENCE INTERVIEW - FOLLOW UP	PAUL GATLAND	24 DECEMBER 2015
ADD LATEST DISCUSSION DOCUMENT FOR NEXT AGENDA	SANDRA KEENAN	COMPLETED
FORWARD FORUM MEMBERS' CONTACT DETAILS TO MSC	SANDRA KEENAN	COMPLETED
SEND OUT MEETING INVITE FOR MAY, AUGUST, DECEMBER 2016	SANDRA KEENAN	COMPLETED