WESTERN AUSTRALIAN FIREARMS CONSULTATION WORKING GROUP

NEWSLETTER

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WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

The Western Australian Firearms Consultation Working Group (WAFCWG) is a collaborative forum convened by the WA Police Force to engage with industry stakeholders across the firearms community. Its primary aim is to foster transparent, ongoing consultation between Police and industry representatives, ensuring the implementation of the firearm reforms are practical, inclusive and well-communicated.

This newsletter aims to provide an overview of issues raised by the WAFCWG, and important information for dissemination to respective association members.

If you need advice or assistance with transitioning a firearm licence or registering your property, please contact the Transition Team.

If you need advice or assistance with a new or additional firearms application, please contact Licensing Services.

CLUBS & RANGES

- The National Firearms Working Group is developing basic national standards with regard to range construction and safety templates.
- Meanwhile work is underway locally to review and update club and range safety templates. These requirements will come into effect after clubs and ranges transition to their 2024 licences. WA Police have committed to a collaborative approach and will work with Clubs and Ranges to resolve any issues.
- Club and range licence application forms can now be found on the website.

COMPETITION SHOOTERS

- **Immediate Supervision:** Supervisors must be present, able to see and hear activities, and intervene if needed. There is no strict one-to-one ratio.
- **Supervisor Qualifications:** Concerns were raised about the requirement for supervisors to have held a firearm licence for more than five years, particularly for parents wishing to supervise their children. This will likely be discussed as part of the legislative committee but from a Police perspective this is consistent with rules associated with learner drivers.
- **Working with Children Checks:** Anyone supervising minors in a volunteer setting must hold a valid check.

TRAINING ISSUES

- Members reported delays in training are affecting some applicants, including industry workers such as mining staff.
- TAFE courses typically take 7–8 days from test to certificate, but logins and authentication add to delays. Regional applicants are also facing challenges with the online portal and health assessments. WA Police will raise these issues with the TAFE at their next meeting.
- Members expressed support for involving dealers earlier in the application process to provide guidance. A demonstration of the current application process will be given at the next meeting to improve understanding and gain feedback on areas for future improvement.

PASTORALIST & FARMERS

- WA Farmers raised a number of issues in a meeting with the Commissioner of Police. These issues have been documented and will be shared with WAFCG members.

SPORTING SHOOTERS & COMPETITION PERMITS

- International competitors are facing difficulties due to $130 transit permits. Further discussions with Border Force are planned.
- Issues continue for interstate and international competitors transiting through WA. Coordination with Border Force and airlines will be pursued.

COLLECTORS

- New requirements mean collector societies must notify the Commissioner when members leave. The difference between collectors and shooters was also clarified. WA Police will develop further guidance to collector societies on the importance of their associations is the licensing process and the importance of continued active membership for collectors to maintain their collectors' licences.

TRANSITION TO 2024 LICENCES

- Licence transition has been extended from 90 to 180 days to reduce renewal administration, noting most people who are engaging will automatically be given an extension. Communication efforts will continue to focus on education and support during this period.

LICENSING SERVICES

- Over 19,800 properties have been registered, with more than 25,000 users accessing the portal. Improvements to the portal will remain ongoing.