



NEW SOUTH WALES FIREARM DEALERS ASSOCIATION

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- A lot of business transactions to and from the Firearms Registry are still done on paper and sent by mail with all mail being sent to Paramatta then some of it being redirected to Murwillumbah. This slows down processing times with some portion of mail going missing. While there is some electronic interaction not all dealers are on it and the system is antiquated.

These are some of the hurdles that firearms dealers are confronted with daily. The restrictive and unnecessary nature of some of the restraints placed on us make it impossible for small businesses to expand and grow while the larger businesses must invest in excessive man hours to remain compliant.

Removing and changing the issues I have highlighted will not change the effectiveness of existing firearms legislation and regulations, nor will it make NSW any less safe.

By removing the unnecessary red tape, allows dealers to be more productive and profitable, this will have a flow on effect of further employment within the industry.

The report broke down the money spent on recreational hunting and sports shooting by individual states and territory's in 2018. It estimated that \$650 million was spent in NSW, if we added how much was spent by primary producers, the security industry and Government departments the firearms industry injects hundreds of millions into the NSW economy annually.

Some \$166 million was directly spent in local businesses, much of this in regional NSW injecting money into communities that are already struggling.



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- The long delays it takes for a dealer's licence renewal to be processed some dealers have been waiting for up to 12 months for their licence renewals to be approved. There is no reason why the licence should not be automatically be renewed if the dealer applies for the renewal prior to the expiry date. The current system gives the dealers the authority to operate on their expired licence while the renewal is being processed, however this leads to issues with doing business with other dealers both within NSW and interstate because the physical licence has expired.
- The necessity for dealers to provide council approval to operate their businesses to the Firearms Registry when renewing their licences despite having operated the business in the location without incident.
- The time it takes for the Firearms Registry to issue firearm registration numbers. All firearms in NSW must have a registration number, the rationale is so the firearm can be positively identified. No other state or territory has registration numbers, they use the firearms serial number as the identification. Therefore any firearms transferred from interstate dealers or imported can't be sold in NSW until a registration number has been issued for the firearm. This is both frustrating for the dealer and purchaser.
- The inconsistency between NSW and other states and territories in regards what can be legally sold for example some firearms are classified as prohibited in NSW because of how they look while in other jurisdictions they are legal.



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There are a number of issues we face that makes it difficult to run and grow our businesses.

For example;

- Lengthy delays in the issuing of Permit to Acquires (PTAs) for a second or subsequent firearm to a Licensed Firearms owners, in some cases it can take 2 to 3 months for the application to be processed. This delay causes financial stress in the running of a business, as dealers are sitting on thousands of dollars of stock. This could be changed or modified to a more realistic time of 24-48hrs as happens in other states. This would improve the cash flow for a Firearms Dealer and improve efficiency in the running of that business.
- The Ammunition Control amendments to the Firearms Act in 2013 cause unnecessary bookkeeping for a Firearms Dealer when selling ammunition. No other state or territory imposes the same legislative requirement. This was an overreaction by the government to prevent ammunition getting into the hands of criminals.
- Paper based recording of acquisitions, disposals of firearms and the requirement to submit a duplication of this paperwork quarterly. This method of reporting is very antiquated, slow and time consuming. This out-dated method of operation creates many extra hours of paperwork for the business and therefore places a much larger financial burden on the business.



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16 December 2019

Dear Commissioner,

On behalf of the NSW Firearms Dealers Association I would like to make this late submission on kickstarting the productivity conversation.

A report commissioned by the Commonwealth Department of Health published in September 2019, stated that there are 640,000 recreational hunters and shooters in Australia.

The report estimated that in 2018 the money spent on hunting and shooting sports was \$2.8 billion comprising of \$0.8 billion directly on the sport with a further \$1.6 billion spent on food, fuel accommodation ect.

This report did not include shooting activities undertaken by primary producers or professional hunters.

Interestingly the states that benefited most from these activities are NSW and Victoria. This is not surprising of the 640,000 licenced recreational shooters in the country NSW has approximately 39% or nearly 250,000.

By law all firearms and ammunition sales must be facilitated by a licenced dealer. There are approximately 300 licenced dealers in NSW. Like most businesses some operate from shop fronts while others operate from home, however unlike most businesses our industry is highly regulated and scrutinised.

The Premier Association representing Licensed Firearms Dealers, Gunsmiths, Theatrical Armourers, Club Armourers, Prohibited Weapons Dealers and other associated trades and Clubs in NSW and ACT.



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Thank you for considering our late submission.

Sincerely

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