

SSANZ News November December 2018

www.sportingshooters.nz SSANZ, PO Box 275, Whangarei 0140



SSANZ AGM - 2 MARCH 2019, 2.00pm Forum North, Whangarei

We need a new Secretary and Treasurer; an organization cannot function without these two key officers. At a time when firearm ownership is coming under more and more pressure we all need to stand together united. Are you willing to step up, or will you watch this organization fade into oblivion through lack of your involvement? Meanwhile persuade a mate to join SSANZ if you do nothing else.

Ammunition Supply Chain in Jeopardy

As a consequence of the 2017 Health and Safety Regulation the transport of ammunition within NZ has been seriously affected as most Couriers now refuse to carry safety ammunition, primers and powder. The reason being they face a \$50,000 fine if they allow these class 1 products to remain in their depots for more than 24 hours. Clearly this is a likely occurrence if the consignment is in transit over a weekend or public holiday.

SSANZ has written to the responsible Minister asking for these products to be exempt or granted an extension to 72 hours. In his reply to SSANZ the minister stated "My officials consider that there is no problem with this aspect of the regulations as currently written" However in his reply to COLFO he has asked that the council meet with WorkSafe to discuss the matter further. Meanwhile dealers are finding it harder to ship ammunition to their customers.

Arms (Firearms Prohibition Orders) Bill lost at first reading.

Defeated by 63 votes to 57 this National Party Bill had many unintended consequences for Licensed Firearm owners. SSANZ was pleased to see NZ First MP, himself an enthusiastic shooter, standing up for lawful firearm owners and making a scathing attack on the Bill. As one well known ex Police arms control expert pointed out the current Arms Act already makes provision for preventing criminal gang members obtaining firearms through the "fit and proper" vetting process. There is no need for NZ to adopt Police State methods, just because the Ausies think it is a good idea.

New Website launched by the Firearms Safety Council of Aotearoa New Zealand.

SSANZ is a member of FSCANZ and supports the aims and objectives of the council for improving public and shooter safety with firearms. Visit

<https://www.firearmssafetycouncil.org.nz/>

SSANZ members represent COLFO at Sika Show

Showing our commitment to Unity and supporting all factions of the shooting sports, two of the SSANZ national committee acted as host on the COLFO stand at the Sika Show held in Taupo at the end of September.

In Australia Victoria Parliament Refuse to Relax a Ban on Suppressors for Hunters

On 25 July the Parliament of Victoria debated the **Firearms Amendment (silencers) Bill 2018** to relax the restriction on the use of suppressors for recreational hunters. The Bill failed to gain support from any of the major parties and was defeated by 36 votes to 4, this despite the Bill requiring a permit to purchase and secure storage for all suppressors. It seems that science and logic played little part in this debate, some MPs freely admitting that the only knowledge they had on the matter was gained from movies. We don't know how lucky we are here in NZ where silencers are recognised as a sensible tool for noise reduction protecting the hearing of shooters and preventing unnecessarily alarm to other game animals, stock and members of the public.

NZ Police Declare Their Intentions

In a document published recently on their website purporting to provide guidance for those wishing to import AR and AK type semi automatic firearms Police reveal their true intention; which is to stifle the importation and support of these firearms by effectively making them, and their parts, conform to the requirements of an MSSA needing a **special reason to import**, regardless of the configuration in which they were manufactured.

This means that Dealers cannot import parts or partly assembled ARS or AKs for stock, even if they do not have the features of an MSSA, as this is not considered a special reason.

As a partner member of COLFO, SSANZ will be supporting a planned Judicial Review of the police policy to classify all AR and AK type firearm parts as being a part of an MSSA.

We hope that once this action gets underway all those who own A cat ARs and AKs and all dealers who make a living selling them will consider making a financial contribution. SSANZ has already made a donation to this impending legal action.

POLICE OCTOBER ROAD SHOW

The main purpose of the October Police Road Show that visited Christchurch, Palmerston North, Wellington, Auckland, Hamilton and Invercargill with meetings for Dealers and Licensed Firearm Owners was to gather feedback on the possible new ways of administering the Arms Act as shown in the following slide:

WORKING DRAFT (FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY)

Firearms Community Discussion (October 2018)
New Zealand Firearms Licensing Process

How do you feel about these improvements in the current firearms process?
We want your feedback.

Help me understand	Know me	Let me apply	Give me	Working together
<p>1 I can easily and quickly find the relevant instructions, and list of supporting documentation required to apply for a firearms licence</p> <p>2 I am able to prepare and keep all documentation ready before I apply</p> <p>3 I will be able to view explainer videos and read FAQ documents</p> <p>4 Guidance is available to help me undertake the theory test and the practical training</p> <p>5 When I get in touch with you for advice, I receive consistent messages on the process/regulations</p>	<p>6 I am able to provide comprehensive information during my first application that will create a unique profile for me for future reference</p> <p>7 When I speak to someone in the firearms team, I don't have to repeat information</p> <p>8 My past applications are saved to my profile and can be used or amended by me for subsequent applications</p> <p>9 I can update my address online on my profile. This will trigger a home visit</p> <p>10 All current endorsements are linked to my profile</p> <p>11 When applying for a subsequent Category A licence, I am also prompted to consider applying for my endorsements</p> <p>12 The referee interviews may be face-to-face, web form or over the phone</p>	<p>13 I can submit my application electronically and pay online</p> <p>14 Alternatively, I can submit a paper application and pay at NZ Post</p> <p>15 For subsequent applications, I can reuse my previous application with the option to amend as required</p> <p>16 When applying for a Permit to Import/Permit to Procure, I can choose to replicate my previous order with the option to amend as required</p> <p>17 I am guided to the relevant application online and 'Help Text' prompts me to complete an application</p> <p>18 I am able to track my application online and receive specific (e.g. Permit to Import) push notifications</p> <p>19 I am reminded in advance when my licence is nearing expiry</p>	<p>20 Timely, consistent, and legislatively compliant firearms application experience</p> <p>21 I am able to submit a Permit to Procure form electronically onsite at a dealer's</p> <p>22 Opportunities to participate in firearms community events and meetings to learn, share and provide feedback</p>	<p>23 I can opt-in to receive messages on upcoming firearms events</p> <p>24 More rigour around online sales and collection of firearms – may include delivery of firearms at a dealer's site</p> <p>25 Through a dealer, a firearms seller is able to verify the current status and validity of a customer's firearms licence in the system (Yes/No response*)</p> <p>26 Greater visibility of the process and information to support an efficient, modernised firearms licensing process</p>

* Note: Dealers will not have access to or receive any personal information from the Police firearms licence database.

It should be noted that this is a discussion document and any changes to the way the Act is administered will be brought about through changes to the Regulations to allow digital forms in addition to the current paper based system.

Following a brief explanation of each point on the slide audiences were invited to indicate their approval or otherwise and if they objected asked to explain why.

Item # 24 & 25 are not intended to force private sales to take place through a dealer (this was a discussion point only) and verification of a customer's licence will simply provide a yes/no answer as to its current validity, no personal information will be provided and is the same systems approach that is used by Trade Me and Police at present.

To quote acting Superintendent Mike Mc Ilriath "Overall the 12 sessions and six different locations (we) found that the community are backing the direction we are going, with some suggested changes in minor detail. Police are grateful to those that were able to take time out of their day to attend and provide constructive feedback."