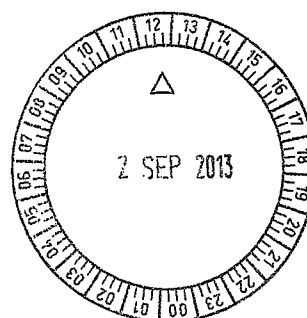




Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (W.A.) Inc.

Box D154 GPO
PERTH 6840

Branches in all
States and Territories



30/8/13

The Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation
GPO Box: A 11
PERTH WA 6837

Dear Chair

I am writing to voice our ongoing concern and anger over the massive hike in fees for firearms licensing for law abiding and legitimate firearms owners in WA.

For many years our Association has been at the forefront of looking after the interests of firearms owners and we are the largest group in the country with over 150 000 members nationally. In WA we represent almost 8000 members and almost 70 clubs throughout the state.

The fee increases are oppressive and it's difficult to see any real justification for the increases, especially after looking at the way other state jurisdictions conduct this same service, with comparisons of between \$10 to \$40 for a service that we are asked to pay almost "\$170". Turnaround for service delivery in Victoria for example has a "kpi" of 10 days where we have what seems to be an average of between 60 to 90 days which is excessive.

From our ongoing meetings with Police and Parliament we understand that we are being asked to pay to cover costs, however we are paying for an ongoing and totally failed process of over-analysis with flawed data and service that has an extremely poor reputation within our membership and the general public. As an example of just one issue I have included an approval we recently received for additions to our corporate license, this would be Ok except we did not apply for them.

The Aus post interface via the Police website for making an application is also a constant source of complaint from our members with statements of "system down come back later" being the message on the computer screen. As part of the overall application process almost \$50 goes to Australia post, surely this can be accomplished by WA governments existing infrastructures, thus saving on-cost to the applicants

The question really needs to be asked as to "why do we have to pay at all" considering the recent Auditor general's report on the process that clearly stated that its totally broken, the report prior to this also stated that there was about 5000 follow ups for deceased estates and licensee movements interstate, yet the latest report shows over 1000 deceased need the same follow up. That tells me they all passed away or it wasn't dealt with or is yet another example of flawed data.

The fee increases need to be halted until such time that the process of legitimately applying for a firearms license can be brought in line with other jurisdictions standards of service and delivery for the same process.

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