

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S PORTFOLIO

Group: 3

Program: 1.7

Question No. BE15/105

Senator Leyonhjelm asked the following written question from the 27 and 28 May 2015 hearing:

1. Have any proposals been put to the Firearms & Weapons Policy Working Group from any party to amend the National Firearms Agreement or otherwise seek state agreement to reclassify certain types of firearms into Category C or any other categories? If so, what are those proposals?
2. Has the firearms industry or key stakeholders such as the Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia, Australian Field and Game or Australian Clay Target Association, been consulted by the Firearms & Weapons Policy Working Group, or by any part of Government with respect to considerations of the Firearms & Weapons Policy Working Group? If so, which groups have been consulted, when, and on what matters?
3. Are all firearms seized by the AFP and other police agencies handed over to the ACC for identification and tracing? If not, why not?
4. If a firearm recorded on the National Firearms Interface (or CrimTrac) has been stolen, in what instances is the owner then flagged on all state police systems? If the owner is not flagged in all instances, what distinguishes cases where the owner is flagged from cases where the owner is not? Is any consideration of the fault of the owner taken into account?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

1. As part of the current consideration of potential updates to the technical elements of the National Firearms Agreement (NFA), the Government has sought targeted submissions from relevant firearm industry and community organisations, which are due in mid-September. Two submissions have been received to date, both from industry and peak body representatives. It would be premature to provide further information on the submissions received until they have been considered by the FWPWG.
2. Members of the FWPWG frequently engage with stakeholders. FWPWG have held recent consultations meetings with key stakeholders, including Shooting Australia, Field and Game, the Australian Clay Target Association and firearm dealers to discuss the firearms related recommendations of the Martin Place Siege Review. In addition, the Minister for Justice has established a Firearms Industry Reference Group (FIRG) to provide him with advice on updating the technical elements of the NFA. The first meeting of the FIRG was held on 26 August 2015.
3. Not all firearms seized by police are referred to the ACC for tracing. Decisions on the provision of seized firearms to the ACC for identification and tracing are a matter for police agencies, in states and territories.

4. CrimTrac's National Firearms Licensing and Registration System records that a firearm has been stolen. This information may be able to be used to determine the individual from whom the firearm was stolen. The manner in which police record information relating to stolen firearms is a matter for police agencies, in states and territories. The National Firearms Interface, currently under development, is also intended to record information on stolen firearms.