

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

Group: 3

Program: 1.2

Question No. SBE15/088

Senator McKenzie asked the following question at the hearing on 20 October 2015:

1. In relation to recommendations for the review of the NFA that are going to the November 2015 meeting of the Law, Crime and Community Safety Council, I understand that draft proposals that have already been circulated amongst the Firearms and Weapons Policy Working Group. In turn, what role will public submissions play overall?
2. How many public submissions were received?
3. How were they processed?
4. How many staff were working on processing the public submissions for the Safety Council's benefit and at what level of appointment were they?
5. Were there adequate resources within the Department to consider public submissions before draft proposals were completed and distributed amongst members of the Firearms and Weapons Policy Working Group?
6. What was the timeframe for the consideration of public submissions and the resources allocated to processing them before the draft proposals were circulated?
7. Are there any specific inclusions of ideas or examples provided in public submissions within the draft proposal document?
8. Has the Department or Justice Minister received submissions or correspondence from Victoria Police outlining their views on the NFA? If so, from whom and on what dates and can they be tabled?
9. Has the Department or Justice Minister received submissions or correspondence from the Victorian Government, Premier, Attorney-General or Police Minister outlining their views on the NFA? If so, from whom and on what dates and can they be tabled?
10. Has the Department or Justice Minister received submissions or correspondence from any Victorian public servants regarding the categorization of firearms? If so, from whom and on what dates and can they be tabled?
11. Has the Department or Justice Minister received submissions or correspondence from New South Wales Police outlining their views on the NFA? If so, from whom and on what dates and can they be tabled?
12. Has the Department or Justice Minister received submissions or correspondence from the New South Wales Government, Premier, Attorney-General or Police Minister outlining their views on the NFA? If so, from whom and on what dates and can they be tabled?
13. Has the Department or Justice Minister received submissions or correspondence from any New South Wales public servants regarding the categorization of firearms? If so, from whom and on what dates and can they be tabled?
14. Has the Department or Justice Minister received submissions or correspondence from the South Australian Police outlining their views on the NFA? If so, from whom and on what dates and can they be tabled?
15. Has the Department or Justice Minister received submissions or correspondence from the South Australian Government, Premier, Attorney-General or Police Minister outlining their views on the NFA? If so, from whom and on what dates and can they be tabled?
16. Has the Department or Justice Minister received submissions or correspondence from any

South Australian public servants regarding the categorization of firearms? If so, from whom and on what dates and can they be tabled?

17. Has the Department or Justice Minister received submissions or correspondence from any Western Australian Police outlining their views on the NFA? If so, from whom and on what dates and can they be tabled?

18. Has the Department or Justice Minister received submissions or correspondence from the West Australian Government, Premier, Attorney-General or Police Minister outlining their views on the NFA? If so, from whom and on what dates and can they be tabled?

19. Has the Department or Justice Minister received submissions or correspondence from any West Australian public servants regarding the categorization of firearms? If so, from whom and on what dates and can they be tabled?

20. Has the Department or Justice Minister received submissions or correspondence from the Tasmanian Police outlining their views on the NFA? If so, from whom and on what dates and can they be tabled?

21. Has the Department or Justice Minister received submissions or correspondence from the Tasmanian Government, Premier, Attorney-General or Police Minister outlining their views on the NFA? If so, from whom and on what dates and can they be tabled?

22. Has the Department or Justice Minister received submissions or correspondence from any Tasmanian public servants regarding the categorization of firearms? If so, from whom and on what dates and can they be tabled?

23. Has the Department or Justice Minister received submissions or correspondence from Queensland Police outlining their views on the NFA? If so, from whom and on what dates and can they be tabled?

24. Has the Department or Justice Minister received submissions or correspondence from the Queensland Government, Premier, Attorney-General or Police Minister outlining their views on the NFA? If so, from whom and on what dates and can they be tabled?

25. Has the Department or Justice Minister received submissions or correspondence from any Queensland public servants regarding the categorization of firearms? If so, from whom and on what dates and can they be tabled?

26. Has the Department or Justice Minister received submissions or correspondence from the Northern Territory Police outlining their views on the NFA? If so, from whom and on what dates and can they be tabled?

27. Has the Department or Justice Minister received submissions or correspondence from the Northern Territory Government, Chief Minister, Attorney-General or Police Minister outlining their views on the NFA? If so, from whom and on what dates and can they be tabled?

28. Has the Department or Justice Minister received submissions or correspondence from any Northern Territory public servants regarding the categorization of firearms? If so, from whom and on what dates and can they be tabled?

29. Has the Department or Justice Minister received submissions or correspondence from the Australian Capital Territory Police outlining their views on the NFA? If so, from whom and on what dates and can they be tabled?

30. Has the Department or Justice Minister received submissions or correspondence from the Australian Capital Territory Government, Chief Minister, Attorney-General and Police Minister their views on the NFA? If so, from whom and on what dates and can they be tabled?

31. Has the Department or Justice Minister received submissions or correspondence from any Australian Capital Territory public servants regarding the categorization of firearms? If so, from whom and on what dates and can they be tabled?

32. From whom does the Department take technical advice on firearms?

33. Do those experts have expertise in modern firearms (designed and manufactured in the last 20 years) as well as older firearms (designed and manufactured over twenty years ago)? If

not, what knowledge do they have on firearms more than 20 years old?

34. Understanding that many States still use partly paper-based and labour intensive systems for recording the ownership of and transaction of firearms (and that there are often significant time gaps between the transaction and the reporting of same), has the Department reviewed what additional investment is required by States to bring each of their computer systems up to a standard to allow as close as possible to real time input of accurate data?

35. Is the Department recommending that the Federal Government fund such an ICT upgrade?

36. Has the Department undertaken any research of the way other Commonwealth nations like Canada and New Zealand spend their money on managing firearms?

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

1. Submissions received from targeted stakeholders were circulated to members of the Firearms and Weapons Policy Working Group for consideration.
2. Submissions were sought from 32 stakeholders and received from 20.
3. See response to question 1.
4. All staff in the firearms team played some role in processing the submissions. The firearms team consists of five officers at the following levels: EL2, EL1, APS6 (x2), APS4. Departmental SES officers were also involved in managing the NFA review.
5. Yes.
6. Invitations to make submissions were sent on 20 August 2015, with responses sought by 11 September 2015. The draft updated NFA was considered by the Law, Crime and Community Safety Council on 5 November 2015.
7. Submissions were considered by the Firearms and Weapons Policy Working Group as part of preparing the draft updated National Firearms Agreement.
8. Government representatives exchanged views on the National Firearms Agreement Review as part of Firearms and Weapons Policy Working Group discussions.
9. The Minister for Justice and his counterparts exchanged correspondence as part of the National Firearms Agreement review.
10. See response to question 8.
11. See response to question 8.
12. See response to question 9.
13. See response to question 8.
14. See response to question 8.
15. See response to question 9.

16. See response to question 8.
17. See response to question 8.
18. See response to question 9.
19. See response to question 8.
20. See response to question 8.
21. See response to question 9.
22. See response to question 8.
23. See response to question 8.
24. See response to question 9.
25. See response to question 8.
26. See response to question 8.
27. See response to question 9.
28. See response to question 8.
29. See response to question 8.
30. See response to question 9.
31. See response to question 8.
32. The Attorney-General's Department receives technical advice from members of the Firearms and Weapons Policy Working Group.
33. Yes.
34. The Firearms and Weapons Policy Working Group is considering a range of issues relating to firearms data prior to the implementation of the National Firearms Interface. This includes the quality and availability of data from State and Territory systems. However, funding to allow real-time reporting of transactions is a matter for individual States and Territories.
35. No.
36. As part of the National Firearms Agreement review, the Attorney-General's Department considered the firearms regulatory frameworks of other countries.