



### Freedom of Information Request FA 18/07/00247

List of all current representatives (organisations and individuals) who sat on the Firearms Industry Reference Group (FIRG)

- The Hon Michael Keenan MP – then Minister for Justice and Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Counter-Terrorism
- Russell Bate – Firearm Safety Foundation (Victoria)
- Rod Drew – Shooting Industry Foundation of Australia
- Catherine Fettell – Shooting Australia
- Geoff Jones – Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia
- Luca Scribani Rossi – National Firearm Dealers Association
- Robert Schwarz – Independent firearms expert

# Firearms Industry Reference Group – Minutes

## Australian Parliament House, Wednesday 29 March 2017

### Attendees:

- Minister for Justice and Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Counter-Terrorism, the Hon Michael Keenan MP
- Russell Bate, Firearm Safety Foundation (Victoria)
- Rod Drew, Shooting Industry Foundation of Australia
- Catherine Fettell, Shooting Australia
- Geoff Jones, Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia
- Robert Schwarz, independent firearms expert
- Luca Scribani Rossi, National Firearm Dealers Association
- Mark Crossweller, Acting Deputy Secretary, Attorney-General's Department
- Stephen Bouwhuis, Assistant Secretary, Attorney-General's Department
- Adrian Barrett, Office of the Minister for Justice
- Secretariat: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) , Attorney-General's Department

### Apologies:

- David McNabb, Field and Game Australia

### 1. Welcome and apologies (9:30am)

- The Minister thanked members of the Reference Group for their attendance.
- The Minister noted that David McNabb is an apology for this meeting.

### 2. Update on items from previous meeting

#### **2(a) Carrying hand-loaded ammunition aboard the Spirit of Tasmania**

- The Minister noted that he had raised the issue of carrying hand-loaded ammunition aboard the *Spirit of Tasmania* with the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, the Hon Darren Chester MP, who had consulted the Australian Maritime Safety Authority.
- The Minister agreed to send Catherine Fettell the contact details of an appropriately senior officer in the Australian Maritime Safety Authority to allow them to speak directly about the relevant technical issues.

#### **2(b) Cross-jurisdictional issues**

- The Minister noted that he had written to the then Western Australia Deputy Premier and Minister for Police, the Hon Liza Harvey MLA.
- The Minister agreed to contact the incoming Minister in Western Australia to seek the new Government's position.

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### 3. Updated National Firearms Agreement

#### **3(a) General comments on the Agreement**

- The Minister noted that the updated Agreement reflects the consensus position of the Commonwealth, states and territories, each of which signed the Agreement as equal parties.
- The Minister noted that the updated Agreement is not legally binding on any jurisdiction.
- s. 47B(a) [REDACTED]
- Members raised concerns about the updated Agreement, including that language used in the updated Agreement was different to language used in previous Agreements.
- The Minister stated that the updated Agreement had been relocated on the Attorney-General's Department's website so it was no longer under "crime and corruption".

#### **3(b) Genuine reasons – sports shooter**

- The Minister stated that the regulations governing sports shooters with respect to membership of the Australian Clay Target Association have not changed.

#### **3(c) Black powder pistol shooting**

- The Minister stated that the regulation of black powder pistol shooting has not changed.

### 4. The process for checking serial numbers at the border

- The Minister stated that he received correspondence on this matter from Luca Scribani Rossi the previous week.
- Luca Scribani Rossi stated that he sees the current process as a burden.
- The Minister agreed to raise with the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection, the Hon Peter Dutton MP.

### 5. Update on the national firearms amnesty

- The Minister provided a brief update on the national firearms amnesty.
- The Minister agreed to provide the Reference Group with material for the associated public information campaign.

### 6. Other Business

- Russell Bate raised the importance of consultation with the firearms community and the Reference Group on firearms matters.

**[Meeting close – 10:30am]**

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**Australian Government**  
**Department of Home Affairs**

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Itemised summary of all expenses allocated to facilitating the FIRG for the years, 2016, 2017 and 2018:

- \$1,525 was paid for travel expenses to facilitate an independent firearms expert attend three meetings of the Firearms Industry Reference Group.