

Weapons Categories Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2013

Explanatory notes for SL 2013 No. 214

made under the

Weapons Act 1990

General Outline

Short title

Weapons Categories Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2013

Authorising law

Section 172 of the *Weapons Act 1990*

Policy objectives and the reasons for them

The Ministerial Weapons Advisory Panel was formed in 2012 to provide advice with respect to the illegal use of firearms and the reduction of red tape associated with weapons licence applications and the acquisition of weapons. The Panel has recommended that the definition of a category A weapon be amended to include a triple barrel shotgun. The *Weapons Categories Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2013* (the amendment regulation) gives effect to that recommendation.

The amendment regulation facilitates the legal acquisition, sale and disposal of triple barrel shotguns in Queensland. It is also consistent with the corresponding laws of the other Australian jurisdictions, with the exception of Western Australia and South Australia.

Achievement of policy objectives

The amendment of the definition of a category A weapon achieves the policy objective of enabling triple barrel shotguns to be legally acquired, sold and disposed of in Queensland.

Consistency with policy objectives of authorising law

The amendment regulation is consistent with the principles and object of the *Weapons Act 1990*, including that public and individual safety is improved by imposing strict controls on the possession of weapons and requiring the safe and secure storage and carriage of weapons.

Inconsistency with policy objectives of other legislation

The amendment regulation is consistent with the policy objectives of other legislation.

Benefits and costs of implementation

The amendment regulation will not result in any additional costs for the Government. A permit to acquire a firearm must be successfully applied for prior to any firearms purchase in Queensland. A permit to acquire currently costs an applicant \$33.35. The Queensland Police Service is not in a position to gauge the revenue from future applications for a permit to acquire a triple barrel shotgun.

Consistency with fundamental legislative principles

The amendment regulation is consistent with fundamental legislative principles.

Consultation

The Department of Justice and Attorney-General, Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Department of the Premier and Cabinet, and Queensland Treasury and Trade were consulted in relation to the amendment regulation. The Office of Best Practice Regulation (OBPR) was consulted with regard to the Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) system.

All parties consulted support the amendment regulation. OBPR has advised that the amendment regulation is excluded from the RIS system.