

# Weapons (Fee Unit Conversion) Amendment Regulation 2022

Explanatory notes for SL 2022 No. 74

made under the

*Weapons Act 1990*

## General Outline

### Short title

*Weapons (Fee Unit Conversion) Amendment Regulation 2022*

### Authorising law

Section 48B of the *Acts Interpretation Act 1954*  
Section 172 of the *Weapons Act 1990*

### Policy objectives and the reasons for them

In accordance with Government policy, regulatory fees and charges are reviewed annually. Fees and charges are primarily administered in accordance with the Queensland Treasury's Principles for Fees and Charges Policy. This outlines the Government's indexation policy that applies to fees. Government indexation seeks to maintain the value of the fee over time relative to the anticipated increase in associated costs.

On 1 January 2022 amendments were made to the *Acts Interpretation Act 1954* (inserting sections 48B and 48C) to introduce the fee unit model. In line with this model any regulated in-scope fees and charges are required to be expressed in legislation in terms of fee units rather than dollar values.

The value of a fee unit will be updated by Treasury annually in line with the Government Indexation Rate. The initial fee unit value has been set at \$1.00.

The regulatory fee unit model provides for indexation of the fee unit rather than the amendment of hundreds of pages of regulation each year. This will streamline the annual process of indexing regulatory fees and create efficiencies across government, including the Queensland Police Service (QPS).

The objective of the *Weapons (Fee Unit Conversion) Amendment Regulation 2022* (the Amendment Regulation) is to amend the *Weapons Regulation 2016* (the Regulation) by applying the fee unit model changing any regulated in-scope fees and charges from dollar amounts to fee units.

## **Achievement of policy objectives**

The Amendment Regulation achieves its objectives by amending the fees and charges in sections 167, 169 and Schedule 1 of the Regulation from dollar values to fee units. This enables future changes to be achieved through amendment to the value of a fee unit without the need for changes to the Regulation.

The brokerage fee under section 170 of the *Weapons Regulation 2016* has not been converted to the fee unit model as it is not a regulated fee or charge of departments or statutory bodies, nor is it subject to annual indexation. Rather, the brokerage fee, which is provided under section 35 of the *Weapons Act 1990* operates as a cap that can be charged by industry, when a weapon is acquired through a licensed weapons dealer.

## **Consistency with policy objectives of authorising law**

The Amendment Regulation is consistent with the objective of the authorising Acts.

## **Inconsistency with policy objectives of other legislation**

The Amendment Regulation is not inconsistent with the policy objectives of other legislation.

## **Alternative ways of achieving policy objectives**

There are no alternative ways of achieving the policy objective.

## **Benefits and costs of implementation**

Costs associated with implementing the Amendment Regulation may include updating forms and publicly available information about fees, including the QPS Internet website. The costs associated with implementation of the Amendment Regulation will be met within existing resources.

The amendments to implement a regulatory fee unit model will streamline the annual process of indexing regulatory fees. It will provide for the indexation of the fee unit rather than amendments of the Regulation and enable associated process efficiencies for the Queensland Police Service.

## **Consistency with fundamental legislative principles**

The Amendment Regulation is consistent with the fundamental legislative principles defined in section 4 of the *Legislative Standards Act 1992*. There are no changes to current fees and charges as a consequence of the amendments.

## **Consultation**

The QPS has concluded that the Amendment Regulation is exempt from regulatory impact analysis as it falls within the following exclusion categories outlined in the Queensland Government Guide to Better Regulation:

- category (a) 'Regulatory proposals that make consequential amendments.'

Consequently, the Office of Best Practice Regulation was not consulted about the Regulation.