

SAFGA "STATE BOARD"

NewsBulletin

20th June 2025



SOUTH AUSTRALIAN FIELD AND GAME

*"The wild life of today is not ours to dispose of
as we please. We have it in trust. We must
account for it to those who come after."
King George VI*

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Firearms Related & Club Range Matters

- *South Australian Firearms Register (SAFR) - Survey*
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South Australian Firearms Register

Smarter systems supporting Safer Communities



The South Australian Firearms Register (SAFR) Project will transform the way SAPOL delivers firearms services to the community. SAFR will enhance efficiency, security and accessibility while improving the experience for firearm owners, businesses and law enforcement.

The SAFR project will deliver:

- A user-friendly customer portal that will enable the online delivery of a range of firearm services to firearms dealers and license holders.
- A new Firearms Register for use by SAPOL's Firearms Branch (FAB) to enhance the management of firearms, licenses and permits.

Why are we changing?

Currently firearm services rely heavily on paper-based processes and in-person interactions at police stations, ServiceSA and Australia Post. By embracing online technology and automating processes SAFR will enhance the customer experience and speed up application processing times.

How can I get involved?

Your insights are important to us. To give our licensees an opportunity to let us know what is important to you we will shortly be conducting an online survey. Licensees who have registered an email address with SAPOL's Firearm Branch will receive an email inviting you to complete the survey.

If you have not registered your email address with the SAPOL Firearms Branch and would like to participate in the survey, please click on this [link](#).

https://eysau.syd1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9nTW3QjYygsIsC2?Link=Generic

By sharing your feedback, you'll help shape future improvements to our services, systems, and communications. All responses are anonymous and will remain strictly confidential.

Combined Firearms Council – CFC standing for shooters rights!

Combined Firearms Council of South Australia is the State peak body for sporting shooting clubs and organisations in South Australia

COMBINED FIREARMS COUNCIL OF SA Inc
GPO Box 1662, ADELAIDE, SA, 5001



Combined Firearms Council – Update

Date: 18 June 2025

Read below and you will find some information tabled at June General Meeting 2025 meeting:

Recently SAPOL has advised that the South Australian Firearms Register (SAFR) Project will transform the way SAPOL delivers firearms services to the community. Selected firearms licence holder will be contacted and asked to participate in a survey. The attached information on the National Firearms Register should be of interest to all firearm licence holders. Please read the attached information and pass on to your members.

A word from the CFC Delegate – Phillip Papaioannou

I would like to take this opportunity to **thank those members who have come forward to discuss matters relating to firearms, licensing, and other relevant issues** in my capacity as CFC delegate.

While I'm on the topic, I'd also like — on behalf of the State Board — to extend our appreciation to those who have contacted us with **kind comments and feedback** in response to our **News Bulletins** and other communications. Your interest and support are genuinely valued.

Please be assured that the **State Board**, along with its **appointed delegates**, continues to make an enormous effort behind the scenes. Through **endless meetings** within SAFGA and with external bodies, we are working to ensure that **all members are kept informed as often as possible** about developments in our association and the wider **firearm industry**.

Working for you!

Phillip Papaioannou
SAFGA State Secretary

NATIONAL FIREARM REGISTER - INFORMATION

Australia has some of the strongest firearms laws in the world. However, there are opportunities to address known gaps to help prevent future tragedies where firearms are involved.

On 1 July 2024, the National Firearms Register (NFR) Implementation Program commenced. This followed [National Cabinet's agreement on 6 December 2023](#) to implement a register. The NFR delivers on an outstanding reform from the 1996 Port Arthur response.

The NFR will be designed as an integrated system that connects and draws information from existing Commonwealth, state and territory firearms registries, portals and management systems into one central register.

This will provide a life cycle view of registered firearms in Australia, delivering timely and accurate information on firearms, firearm owners and licences across all jurisdictions. The NFR will enhance police and community safety and improve law enforcement capability.

The Attorney-General's Department and the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission (ACIC) will lead national efforts to establish the NFR. The ACIC will develop and operate the NFR's central register.

Keep checking this webpage for updates on progress and key developments of the NFR Program.

Benefits of the National Firearms Register

The NFR will provide frontline police officers with access to near real-time information on firearms, firearms owners and licences. It will link firearms information with police and government information systems. This will better enable law enforcement to assess risks to the community and frontline police officers.

The NFR will draw information from existing firearms registries, online portals and firearm management systems. It will deliver, in near-real time:

- nationwide tracing of firearms across Australia's international and domestic borders
- secure nationwide sharing of information on firearms, firearms owners and licences
- national licence verification service for law enforcement and firearms dealers
- national alert and notification function for law enforcement about high-risk information or events
- reporting and analysis functions to understand national firearms trends.

The NFR will put in place more consistent and efficient processes to administer and verify firearms licences. Most firearms management processes, including permit and dealer portals, will become digitised as part of the NFR. This is expected to improve user experience.

Once established, police will know where registered firearms are, who owns them and what risks to the community may exist. Ultimately, the NFR will enhance community safety and reduce the risk of firearm-related violence.

Program structure and timing

The NFR Program is a 4-year initiative and is expected to be operational by mid-2028.

This timeframe reflects the legislative, policy, data and technical improvements required to make the NFR fit for purpose and deliver on its law enforcement and community safety objectives.

All states and territories and a number of Australian Government agencies are improving their registries, portals and management systems. This may include improvements to:

- legislation
- policy
- business processes
- technical systems
- data quality and consistency.

Throughout the NFR's implementation, we will engage with and support individuals and organisations that may be affected by these improvements.

National Firearms Register Program delivery timeline



The timeline pictured shows the following steps:

- Planning for the NFR Program will be conducted for the first 12 months from 2024 till mid-2025.
- Improvements to data quality and upgrades and building firearms registry systems and portals will be conducted from 2024 till 2027.
- Targeted stakeholder engagement and change management will be conducted from 2024 until the NFR is operational in mid-2028.
- Finalising the upgrade/build activities and provisioning data to the NFR will be conducted from mid-2025 until the NFR is operational in mid-2028.

Consultation

We are committed to understanding the views of stakeholders and the broader Australian community as we work to deliver the NFR. Stakeholder engagement with industry, advocacy groups and the community will be a dedicated stream of work throughout the NFR's implementation.

Communication and stakeholder engagement will be done at both a Commonwealth and a state and territory level. The Commonwealth will engage with national industry and advocacy groups. State and territory police agencies will engage with their respective firearms communities, including dealers and owners. Where joint stakeholders are identified for Commonwealth and jurisdictions, a collaborative approach to stakeholder engagement will occur at key points throughout the NFR Program.

The Attorney-General's Department has begun engaging with national industry and advocacy groups to ensure the NFR achieves mutually beneficial outcomes for stakeholders while delivering community safety objectives. Input will be sought on key elements of the NFR.

In April 2023, a public consultation was held on the key capabilities and benefits the NFR could provide. The department received [86 submissions from individuals and organisations](#).

Related links

- [NFR fact sheet](#)

- [Australian Border Force: Importing firearms](#)
- [Illegal firearms and weapons | Australian Federal Police \(afp.gov.au\)](#)
- [Defence Export Controls](#)
- [Australian Capital Territory Firearms Registry](#)
- [New South Wales Police Firearms Registry](#)
- [Northern Territory Police Firearms Policy and Records Unit](#)
- [Queensland Weapons Licensing](#)
- [South Australia Police Firearms Branch](#)
- [Victoria Police Licensing and Regulation Division](#)
- [Tasmania Police Firearms Services](#)
- [Firearms | Western Australia Police Force](#)
- [Firearms | Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission](#)
- [Meeting of National Cabinet – the Federation working for Australia | Prime Minister of Australia](#)

Dear Member,

I have been contacted by a small number of members regarding a **survey distributed by SAPOL Firearms Branch**. At this stage, it is unclear who will or will not receive this survey, and **SAPOL Firearms Branch has not notified or consulted with SAFGA** about it. We are also unsure if they intend to do so.

I strongly encourage **every member who receives this survey** to complete it. It only takes a few minutes and consists entirely of **multiple-choice questions**.

- There is **no space for comments**.
- **No personal details** will be required.
- It is simply an opportunity to provide feedback on SAPOL Firearms Branch services.

Now is the time to **participate and have your voice heard**. Click the link below:

https://eysau.syd1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9nTW3QjYygsIsC2?Link=Generic

If you have any questions or are unsure about anything relating to this survey, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Phillip Papaioannou

State Secretary

☎ 0419 858 205

✉ secretary@safga.org.au

BASC welcomes government announcement on sound moderators

- [- Latest news](#)



June 19, 2025

Following years of lobbying, BASC has welcomed the Government's decision to remove the licensing requirement for sound moderators.

[Dame Diana Johnson MP](#), the Home Office Minister for Policing and Crime Prevention, this morning made a written ministerial statement to announce the publication of the government response to a [Home Office consultation](#) on sound moderators, which took place during the term of the previous government.

The response confirms that the Government has decided to remove sound moderators from [firearms licensing](#) controls, although in order to lawfully possess a sound moderator you will still be required to hold a valid firearms certificate.

A sound moderator is a shooting accessory, such as a sling or gun slip, which is fitted to the barrel of a rifle to protect the hearing of the person firing it. Essentially a metal tube containing baffles, they help to reduce noise pollution for anyone else in the area. BASC has been lobbying for the removal of sound moderators from firearms licensing controls for many years.

The Home Office consultation sought views on proposals to amend the definition of a firearm in section 57(1)(d) of the Firearms Act 1968, removing the reference to sound moderators. The wording of the consultation stated that "sound moderators are not dangerous as firearms, and removing them from firearms licensing controls does not have any implications for public safety".

The Government's view is that the change should be made through primary legislation, as soon as Parliamentary time allows.

Christopher Graffius, BASC's executive director of communications and public affairs, said: "The issue of sound moderators was raised with Dame Diana at a meeting of the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on shooting and conservation last week and at a meeting with BASC and the British Shooting Sports Council (BSSC) earlier this year.

"The announcement comes off the back of years of lobbying work and we are glad the government has listened to the reasoned arguments put forward. BASC would like to thank the APPG, BSSC and Sir Geoffrey Clifton Brown MP, who is chair of the APPG and BASC vice president, for all of their work on the issue."

Bill Harriman, BASC's director of firearms, added: "We welcome the decision to remove sound moderators from firearms licensing controls. This will bring benefits not only for the shooting community, but also reduce the police's workload in licensing firearms by 32 per cent.

"BASC will seek clarity on the meaning of the sentence '...although it will be a requirement for a person to be in possession of a valid certificate in order to lawfully possess a sound moderator.' to ensure that this does not become licensing by the back door."

We will also seek clarity on the position for airguns and shotguns.

[The Government response is being published on gov.uk and will be available via this link.](#)



The British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC)

The British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC) is the UK's largest shooting organization, representing over **150,000 members**. It was originally founded as the Wildfowlers' Association of Great Britain and Ireland (WAGBI) in 1908. BASC promotes sustainable shooting practices, offers advice and training, and undertakes conservation initiatives to protect the countryside and its wildlife.

Here's a more detailed look at BASC:

- Mission:
- BASC's core mission is to safeguard the interests of shooting and promote the well-being of the countryside.
- Membership:
- BASC has a large and diverse membership, including individuals, clubs, and syndicates.
- Activities:
- BASC is involved in various activities, including:
- Political lobbying: BASC works to influence policy decisions at Westminster, in devolved parliaments, and in Brussels.
- Conservation: BASC undertakes practical conservation projects, promotes best practices in habitat management, and conducts research on wildlife and game.

- Advice and Education: BASC provides expert advice, training, and educational resources to its members and the wider public.
- Sustainable Shooting: BASC promotes sustainable shooting practices and works to demonstrate the positive impact of shooting on the environment and economy.
- Organization:
 - BASC has a council, an executive team, and regional offices throughout the UK.
- **Patron:**

Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal is the Patron of BASC.

Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal became Patron of BASC in October 2022, succeeding her father HRH Prince Philip The Duke of Edinburgh in the role, following his death in April 2021.





Australian Government
Attorney-General's Department

National Firearms Register Factsheet

November 2024

Hearing your views

The Commonwealth and states and territories remain committed to understanding the views of stakeholders and the broader Australian community as we work to deliver the National Firearms Register.

Collaboration

Working collaboratively with industry, advocacy groups and the community is essential to ensure the successful implementation of the National Firearms Register.



Commonwealth and state and territory firearms management systems will be connected and integrate with the National Firearms Register.

Australia has some of the strongest firearms laws in the world. However, there are opportunities to address known gaps to help prevent future tragedies where firearms are involved.

The National Firearms Register (NFR) will be designed as an integrated system that connects and draws information from existing Commonwealth, state and territory firearms registries, portals and management systems into one main data hub.

This will provide a life cycle view of registered firearms in Australia, delivering timely and accurate information on firearms and owners across all jurisdictions. The NFR will enhance police and community safety and improve law enforcement capability.

For further information contact us | NFR.enquiries@ag.gov.au



Benefits of the NFR

The NFR aims to better use and enforce existing firearms regulation and information.

The NFR will provide secure information sharing between firearm registries. The NFR will deliver, in near real-time:

- nationwide tracing of firearms across Australia's international and domestic borders
- nationwide sharing of information on firearms owners and licences
- national licence verification service for law enforcement and firearms dealers
- national alert and notification function for high-risk information or events
- reporting and analysis functions to understand national firearms trends.

The NFR will put in place more consistent and efficient processes to administer and verify firearms licences. Most firearms management processes, including permit and dealer portals, will become digitised as part of the NFR. This is expected to improve user experience.

Once established, police will know where firearms are, who owns them and what risks to the community may exist. Ultimately, the NFR will enhance community safety and reduce the risk of gun-related violence.

The NFR is not a national registry. Each jurisdiction will continue to maintain their own firearm registries.

Stakeholder consultation

Stakeholder consultation will be undertaken at both the Commonwealth and state and territory level. The Attorney-General's Department will engage with national industry and advocacy groups. State and territory police departments will consult with their respective firearms communities, including dealers and owners, as required.

The Attorney-General's Department has begun engaging with national industry and advocacy groups to ensure the NFR achieves mutually beneficial outcomes for stakeholders while delivering community safety objectives. Input will be sought on key elements of the NFR.

Collaboratively working with industry and advocacy groups and the community is essential to ensure the successful implementation of the NFR.

Contact us

If you have questions about information provided in this Factsheet, you can visit our website at ag.gov.au/crime/firearms/national-firearms-register or email us at nfr.enquiries@ag.gov.au.

For further information contact us | NFR.enquiries@ag.gov.au

Keeping informed

This *News Bulletin* brought to you by the **State Board**.

State Secretary: **Phillip Papaioannou**: 0419 858205

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SAFGA Delegate to Combined Firearms Council – (CFC)