

Gun Control Australia
Report Card
New South Wales

March 2019

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Section one: Executive summary

Executive summary

About this Report Card

This Report Card provides an analysis of the current status of New South Wales' gun laws and how they are faring after years of political pressure from the gun lobby to water them down. Figures in the report have been obtained from the NSW Firearms Registry via access to information laws and from the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics (BOCSAR) by specific request. The Report Card provides an overview of:

- The increasing level of gun ownership in NSW
- The poor regulation of gun clubs in NSW
- The poor regulation of recreational hunting in NSW
- The role the gun lobby has played in the dismantling of NSW gun laws
- The use of guns in violent crime including domestic violence
- The lack of NSW compliance with the resolutions set out in the 1996 National Firearms Agreement (NFA) in response to the Port Arthur massacre
- The policy position that GCA seeks political parties to embrace at the coming NSW election.

Quick facts¹

- At 1st February 2019 the number of firearms registered in NSW was 1,007,786 with over 880 000 firearms owned by individual license holders. This is an increase of 9.5 per cent on December 2016 (920,041)
- The majority of registered firearms are hunting rifles and shotguns (842,791)²
- There are 40,930 registered handguns including semi-automatic handguns
- Out of the total 608,193 'genuine reasons' provided for issuing a gun licence, 62 per cent of those reasons were for recreational hunting.³
- From Jan 2018 to Dec 2018 there were 454 guns stolen in NSW and 591 stolen the previous year. The majority of guns were stolen from residential dwellings.
- There are 100 individuals (not collectors or dealers) across NSW who own private arsenals with more than 70 firearms including one individual in Eastgardens with 305 firearms, one in Mosman with 285 firearms and one in North Sydney with 268

¹ Figures were prepared by the NSW Firearms Registry 10 December 2018.

² Figures were prepared by the NSW Firearms Registry 10 December 2018.

³ Figures were prepared by the NSW Firearms Registry 1 February 2019.

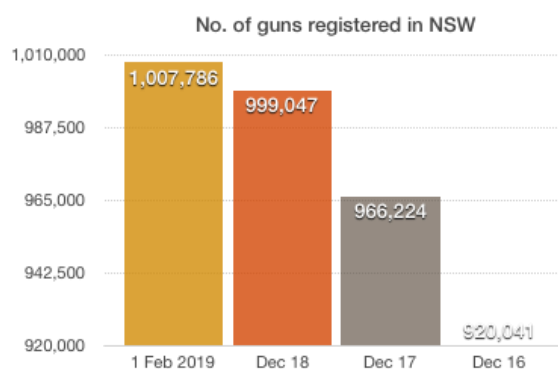
- There have been 21,645 permits for children aged 12 and over issued for the period 2016 to 2018. The Shooters Fishers and Farmers Party (SFFP) is lobbying to lower the age a child can acquire a permit to 10
- In a five-year period there have been 23 domestic violence related murders using a firearm. The use of gun in domestic violence is under reported and under researched.
- In two-year period there have only been 10 convictions/penalties imposed for illegal hunting on private lands
- NSW firearm laws are in breach of 11 of the resolutions set out in the 1996 Port Arthur Agreement known as the National Firearms Agreement 1996 (NFA)

Key findings

Gun ownership (page 12 – 18)

- Figures obtained by GCA under access to information laws reveal NSW has reached 1,007,786 registered firearms.

Year	No. of Registered Firearms
1 Feb 2019	1,007,786
Dec 18	999,047
Dec 17	966,224
Dec 16	920,041



- General hunting rifles and shotguns used for recreational hunting make up the largest category of gun ownership in NSW (known as category A and B firearms). Category A is the largest category of firearms owned by individuals - 499,344 guns. It is followed by Category B - 333,447 guns.⁴
- The number of individual registered handguns has increased from 37,919 in 2016 to 40,930 in 2018.
- At 1st February 2019 there were 236,588 individual license holders in NSW. These firearm owners held an average of four firearms each. License holders can have multiple categories of firearms.
- One individual (not a collector or gun dealer) in Sydney's south-east owns a private cache of 305 guns. A resident in Mosman, on Sydney's lower north shore, owns 285 guns.
- There are 100 individuals across NSW who own private gun arsenals with more than 70 firearms. The Sydney suburbs of Riverstone and Macquarie Park are each home to over 7,000 registered weapons, and the Central Coast suburb of Gosford has over 8,000 registered guns.⁵
- At 1st February 2019 62 per cent of genuine reasons for issuing a licence was for the purpose of 'Recreational Hunting/Vermin Control', followed by 20 per cent for Sport Target Shooting and 16 per cent for primary production.⁶

Weakening of gun laws (p 35)

- NSW is the most obvious example of compliance 'slippage' with the NFA 1996.⁷ In fact, NSW permits the use of prohibited firearms more widely than do other

⁴ Figures were prepared by the NSW Firearms Registry 10 December 2018.

⁵ <https://junkee.com/gun-control-nsw-increase/130446>

⁶ Game Licensing Unit, Department of Primary Industries, 'Economic Impact of Recreational Hunting in NSW', 21 May 2017 pg 7 and licence figures obtained from NSW Firearms Registry via GIPA by GCA

⁷ Alpers, Philip: *Firearm Legislation In Australia 21 Years After The National Firearms Agreement*, Gun Control Australia, October 2017.

jurisdictions.⁸ With such slippage comes an increase in gun numbers and a decrease in public safety.

- NSW gun laws breach the NFA 1996 in 11 respects. This is discussed in detail on page 43 in the Appendices.

Illegal hunting (page 32)

- Illegal hunting is so wide spread across NSW that the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI), NSW Farmers Association and NSW Police Force are conducting a Private Land Survey about Illegal Hunting in NSW.⁹
- Few have been prosecuted for hunting illegally. Data obtained by GCA from the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research NSW (BOCSAR) reveal for the period 2016-2017 to 2017-2018, there has only been ten convictions/penalties imposed for illegal hunting on private lands under s.28(J)(2) of the *Summary offences Act 1988* and s.16(1) *Game and Feral Animal Control Act 2002*

Poor regulation of gun clubs (page 19)

- Figures obtained by GCA under access to information laws reveal there are over 635 approved gun clubs in NSW.
- In 2017- 2018, only 16 per cent (98) of gun clubs were subjected to an inspection of applicant 'Personal History' forms (known as P650 records) which allow unlicensed people to shoot at a gun club under supervision.¹⁰ These forms include questions for personal details that may preclude a person from being a 'fit and proper person' to handle gun, but there is no mechanism for the club to check if the details are accurate.

Gun violence and crime (including stolen firearms) (page 28-32)

- Incidents of shooting into premises increased significantly from 51 and 54 incidents in previous years to 69 incidents in the year to June 2018.¹¹

⁸ Alpers, Philip: *Firearm Legislation In Australia 21 Years After The National Firearms Agreement*, Gun Control Australia, October 2017.

⁹ Department of Primary Industries, 13 July 2018, 'Illegal hunting to be targeted in statewide survey'

¹⁰ Figures obtained from NSW Firearms Registry under *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* (NSW)

¹¹ Figures obtained from the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research on request by GCA

- From Jan 2018 to Dec 2018 there were 454 guns stolen in NSW and 591 stolen the previous year the majority stolen from residential dwellings followed by farmhouses. The majority of firearms stolen were rifles (310) followed by shotguns (50) and air rifles (27).
- Domestic violence: It has been over twenty years since the Commonwealth or States have undertaken any comprehensive research or survey into the relationship between the ownership or storage of guns and the use of guns in domestic violence.
- GCA obtained statistics from BOCSAR on the number of domestic violence incidents in NSW involving a firearm for the period 2013 to 2018.¹² The statistics reveal: 23 murders using a firearm (a rifle being the most common firearm used); 178 incidents of stalking, intimidation and harassment with a firearm; 174 incidents of domestic violence related assaults with a firearm and 8 incidents of abduction and kidnapping.

Gun lobby donations (page 40)

- Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party (SFFP) declared electoral donation total receipts of \$132,111.¹³ One of the big donors to the party was the NSW Amateur Pistol Association donating a total of \$27,600.
- For the period July 2017 to June 2018 the SSFP (NSW) Incorporated received \$87,451 in donations from various donors.¹⁴
- The Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (SSAA) and SFFP are closely aligned. The SSAA has donated over \$100,000 to the party.¹⁵ ¹⁶The SSAA boasts of its ties with the NRA and models its own lobbying arm on the NRA-ILA, calling it the SSA-LA.

¹² This data counts the number of incidents reported to, or detected by, the NSW Police. It does not reflect persons convicted in court.

¹³ Australian Election Commission, Financial Disclosures 2017-18

¹⁴ Electoral Commission NSW, Financial Disclosures for period 2017-2018

¹⁵ <https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/the-killer-quirk-hiding-in-australias-gun-laws-20171006-gyvmho.html>

¹⁶ The Guardian 5 December 2016 by Paul Farrell, 'Shooting bodies \$34m dollars assets spark call to amend national firearm laws'.

Gun Control Australia's policy position:

Outlined below is the policy position that GCA seeks political parties to embrace at the coming NSW election.

1. Limit the number of guns per licence holder to two each, unless applicant can demonstrate a 'exceptional need' for additional firearms (i.e. professional contract shooter or involved in an authorized eradication campaign). An exemption for collectors.
2. Require recreational hunters to renew firearm licence annually.
3. The NSW Auditor-General to conduct a performance audit into the regulation of recreational hunting and hunting clubs in NSW.
4. NSW Firearms Registry to conduct mandatory annual audits of all gun clubs to ensure clubs are complying with all club obligations required under legislation.
5. Establish an automated information sharing system between the NSW Firearms Registry and the Family Law Courts, to ensure risk factors are flagged when a party to family court proceedings applies for a firearm licence/permit or seeks to renew existing licence.
6. NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) to conduct research into the ownership and storage of guns in the home and the use of guns in domestic violence.
7. Place semi-automatic handguns in the same firearm category as semi-automatic longarms.
8. Make it an offence for people with a blood alcohol reading greater than .05 to carry a firearm.
9. Remove the right to shoot unlicensed at gun clubs.
10. Remove minors' permits. Only persons aged 18 years and over may possess and/or own a firearm.
11. Ban donations from arms industry and gun lobby groups to political parties and candidates.
12. The major political parties to refuse to preference parties advocating for the further loosening of gun laws, including the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party, and One Nation.
13. Bring New South Wales' gun laws into compliance with the National Firearms Agreement.
14. Ensure the NSW Firearms Registry has the funds and resources to implement the recommendations outlined in the NSW Auditor-General's Report, 'Firearms regulation', 28 February 2019.

Section two: Research and data

Gun ownership in NSW

Registered firearms¹⁷

At 1st of February 2019 the total number of guns registered in NSW was 1,007,786. This is an increase of 9.5 per cent on December 2016 (920,041).

In December 2018 there were 999,047 guns registered. This is an increase of 32,823 guns from December 2017 (3.2 %) and an increase of 79,006 since December 2016 (7.9%).

The majority of firearms are held by Individual licence holders (880,771), followed by Dealers (100,139), Collectors (13,118), Clubs (2,713) and Business (2,306).¹⁸

Firearm category

The largest category of firearm registered is Category A (499,344), followed by Category B (333,447), Category H (40,930), Category C (11,322) and Category D (747). See Appendix for outline of guns for each category. Category A and B are generally firearms used by recreational hunters. This category of firearms includes: shotguns, rifles and includes lever action shotguns (i.e Adler 6 shot rapid-fire shotgun for which magazine extension kits can be purchased online).

Genuine reason for owning a firearm

At 1st February 2019, recreational hunting/vermin control was the stand out 'genuine reason' for being granted a gun licence in NSW, followed by sport target shooting and then primary production.

There are 238,128 licence holders in NSW. Those licence holders may have multiple genuine reasons and multiply categories authorised on their licence. Recreational hunting is the most common genuine reason. There are 378,328 recreational hunting genuine reasons across categories A and B licences. Most licence holders elect to have both category A and B to undertake recreational hunting activities. Out of the total 608,193 'genuine reasons' provided for issuing a gun licence, 62 per cent of those reasons were for recreational hunting.

¹⁷ Figures obtained from the NSW Firearms Registry under GIPA by GCA.

¹⁸ These statistics were obtained in December 2018 from the NSW Firearms Registry



There has been a significant and worrying change in the types of firearms being imported for the general recreational hunting market falling into firearm category A and B, which include rifles and shotguns that are not self-loading. For example, the Adler six shot rapid fire shotgun has a magazine that can be easily modified to double its capacity to a twelve shot magazine. This weapon is available to all category B licence holders across Australia.

Licence holders

At 1st February 2019 there were 238,079 firearm licence holders in NSW. In 2018, there were 236,951 firearm licence holders in NSW. This is an increase of 7,839 since December 2016 (3.4%). The majority of licences are held by Individuals (235,444) followed by Dealers (725), Business (321), Clubs (284) and Collectors (177).

A licence holder can have multiple categories of firearms. On average each licence holder owns four to five guns.

Accumulation of firearms

A loophole in NSW gun laws allows some gun owners in the state to own hundreds of firearms. A resident in Eastgardens (suburb in Sydney) owns 305 firearms. A resident in Mosman, on Sydney's lower north shore, owns 285 guns.¹⁹ These owners are not dealers or collectors, but individual licence holders.

There are 100 individuals across NSW who own private gun arsenals with more than 70 firearms. The Sydney suburbs of Riverstone and Macquarie Park are each home to over 7,000

¹⁹ <http://www.toomanyguns.org/top-100/>

registered weapons, and the Central Coast suburb of Gosford has over 8,000 registered guns.²⁰

Table: The top ten individual firearm licence holders - not dealers or collectors

Suburb	No. of firearms held
Moonbi	312
Cardiff	310
Eastgardens	305
Mosman	285
North Sydney	268
Dalwood area	237
Terry Hills	211
Dubbo area	202
Molong area	195
Davidson area	181

Permits to Acquire (PTA)

If a gun licence holder wishes to acquire a firearm he/she must make an application for a Permit to Acquire (PTA) a firearm. A separate PTA application must be completed for each firearm the application seeks to acquire.

The category of licence or permit you held will indicate what category of firearm an individual is authorised to possess.

In order to acquire a firearm, the applicant is required declare how the acquisition related to their 'Genuine Reason' for holding a firearm licence and in addition a 'good reason' for wanting to acquire a firearm. Having a 'good reason' for acquiring a firearm is a legislative requirement under s. 31(3)(c) of the *Firearms Act 1996*.

There are serious problems with the PTA system in NSW. Individual gun owners are able to accumulate large caches of firearms because gun owners are utilizing the same 'good reason'

²⁰ <https://junkee.com/gun-control-nsw-increase/130446>

used to obtain their first gun to obtain each additional firearm. The problems with easy acquisition of guns was recently highlighted in a NSW Auditor-General's Report into the NSW Firearms Registry.²¹

The Auditor General's Report found, *"Up until November 2018, the Registry did not assess whether the applicant had a 'good' reason to acquire the firearm. Applicants signed the application form to declare they had a 'good' reason. This was a form of self-assessment that is contrary to the principle of the Registry, as the Commissioner's delegate, to be satisfied that applicants had demonstrated a 'good' reason."*²²

The PTA system is now even more streamlined with applicants able to apply for a PTA via an online portal at MyService NSW.²³

For an initial PTA, there is mandatory 28-day waiting period between the receipt of an application and the issue of the PTA. Under the NFA 1996 this waiting period is mandatory every time a person applies for an additional firearm.

But in 2008 New South Wales changed its firearm laws so applicants applying for an additional firearm of the same type already registered faced no waiting period if a firearm was registered in the applicants name at any time during a 90-day period before the PTA application was made, provided the registration was not cancelled under s. 35 of the *Firearms Act 1996*. This change to the law has allowed for a more rapid uptake of multiple firearms without applicants having to go through the required police background checks.

Although the number of registered firearms has increased the number of PTA's have decreased. The NSW Firearms Registry explains this decrease due to: the 2017 gun amnesty where those who took their gun to a gun dealer for registration were not required to apply for a PTA; dealers are not required to apply for PTAs when acquiring firearms and persons transferring interstate are not required to obtain a PTA.

Table: Number of Permits to Acquire issued for the period 2016 to 2018

Type	2016	2017	2018
PTAs	72,313	71,047	67,074

²¹ Audit Office of New South Wales, 18 February 2019, 'Firearms regulation', Performance Report

²² Ibid at page 20

²³ <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/apply-permit-acquire-firearm-pta>

Handguns in NSW

In 2018 in NSW there were 40,930 legally owned handguns. Those weapons are owned by 13,025 licence holders.²⁴ The majority of these are semi-automatic handguns. This means on average each licence holder owns at least three handguns. Sport shooting is the main 'genuine reason' proffered by applicants applying for a licence to obtain a handgun.

In 2016 there were 37,919 handguns registered and in 2017 there were 39,548 handguns registered. There are now 3,011 more handguns registered compared to 2016, an increase of 7.9%

Under s.16B of the *Firearms Act 1996*, a person may also apply for a 'specialised target pistol' licence. This licence gives the licence holder access to specialised shooting competitions using self-loading pistols.

Although semi-automatic longarms were banned after the Port Arthur massacre in 1996, the shorter equivalent semi-automatic handguns remain legally available to civilians across Australia.

This alarming disparity within our gun laws was tragically highlighted when in October 2002 a student from Monash University killed two students on campus and injured five others. The student had six loaded handguns which were all acquired legally.²⁵

In response to the Monash shooting the Howard Government introduced the National Handgun Buyback Act 2003, placing new restrictions on maximum calibre, magazine capacity and minimum barrel lengths for all handguns. But over the years, the states and territories have introduced a number of exceptions to these restrictions, which allows for greater access to high powered semi-automatic handguns. Semi-automatic handguns remain a legal firearm across Australia and have yet to be placed in the same category as the long arm equivalent.

²⁴ <https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/john-edwards-should-never-have-been-allowed-to-buy-a-gun-say-critics-20180707-p4zq4o.html>

²⁵ The Age, 21 October 2002, 'Gunman Indiscriminately Kills Students'.

There are various different types of permits relating to handguns. These include:

- Pistol permit: allows a person to use and possess a handgun for hunting, fishing, farming or grazing activities provided the applicant provides proof they have a medical condition or disability that prevents them from using a rifle or shotgun).
- Large calibre handgun permit: The permit authorises a person to possess and use large calibre pistols solely to participate in specialised shooting competitions.
- A general permit²⁶: There are no restrictions on the type of firearms that can be authorised by this permit. But the applicant must establish a legitimate reason for possession and use of the firearm concerned.

It was the general permit category scheme which allowed John Edwards to apply to the NSW Firearms Registry to obtain a 'Commissioner's Permit' in 2018. He then went on to obtain a gun licence allowing him to gain handguns which he then used to kill his two children and himself . The Commissioner's permit granted him access to two handguns for the purpose of "firearms training".²⁷

Large calibre pistol permit

Under New South Wales legislation, a person may apply for a Large Calibre Handgun Permit. This permit is for those wishing to participate in specialised shooting activities (i.e. metallic silhouette and single action events), Clause 76, *Firearms Regulation 2017*. The shooter must hold a current Category H firearms licence for the genuine reason of sport/target shooting before they can apply for this permit.

Outlined below are the number of 'Large Calibre Pistol Permits' issued for the years: 2016, 2017 and 2018.

Table: Number of Large Calibre Pistol Permits issued for the period 2016-2018

Type	2016	2017	2018
Large Calibre Pistol Permit	957	979	917

²⁶ Section 28, *Firearms Act 1996* (NSW)

²⁷ Sydney Morning Herald, 10 July 2018, Nick O'Malley & Lisa Visentin 'John Edwards granted commissioner's permit to begin gun training'

Children and Firearms

In NSW a person as young as twelve-years old may apply for a minor's permit until they are 18 years old. The permit allows a minor to possess and use a firearm under supervision to receive instructions or compete in approved target shooting. The permit allows the possession and use of a semi-automatic handgun.

A minor's permit expires three months after the holder's 18th birthday, at which time they must apply for a full firearms licence.

A minor may hold multiple minors permits for different firearms categories (A, B, C and/or H).

Shooters Fishers and Farmers Party(SF&FP) want:²⁸

- to lower the age at which a child can obtain a minor's gun permit to ten-years of age.²⁹
- children younger than twelve to own and use high-powered air rifles.³⁰
- public and independent schools to be able to choose shooting as a school sport.³¹

Under s.6B of the *Firearm Act 1996* a minor may also shoot under supervision at a gun club without requiring a minor's permit. It requires a parent or guardian filling in what is known as a P650 form.

Table: Number of Minor Permits issued for the period 2016-2018

Type	2016	2017	2018
Minors Permits	7295	7184	7166

²⁸ <https://www.sbs.com.au/news/nsw-labor-won-t-rule-out-shooters-deal>

²⁹ <https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/shooters-fishers-and-farmers-party-calls-for-firearms-permits-for-10yearolds-20170801-gxmyzy.html>

³⁰ Sydney Morning Herald, Heath Aston, July 17, 2011 'Push for Guns in Schools'

³¹ Ibid at 14

Gun clubs

There are 635 approved gun clubs in NSW. Of these 71 are a branch of the Sporting Shooters Association of NSW (SSAA).³² The majority of clubs are approved for target shooting followed by hunting.

Clubs play a role in reporting to the NSW Firearms Registry in relation the status of firearm licence holders including: confirming safe storage of firearms, participation in required club activities, shooting unlicensed at the club. But a recent report by the Audit Office of New South Wales found the NSW Firearms Registry is not providing sufficient guidance and supervision to gun clubs in order to ensure the clubs are meeting reporting requirements.³³

Figures obtained by GCA under access to information laws about the 'Try Shooting' program, a program where persons can shoot unlicensed at gun clubs reveal there is insufficient auditing of monitoring of this program.

Shooting unlicensed at gun clubs

In 2008 the government inserted s.6B into the *Firearms Act 1996* which allows unlicensed members of the public to shoot unlicensed at a gun club under supervision. This amendment was a breach of the National Firearms Agreement 1996, which requires all persons who possess, use and own a firearm to be licensed.

This exemption to the Act has been keenly taken up by various gun clubs across the state who have named it the 'Try Shooting' program.

The 'Try Shooting' program is also promoted by the NSW government on the Office of Sport and Recreation website. The NSW Sport and Recreation website lists the dates member of the public can try shooting at the Sydney International Shooting Centre.³⁴

To participate in the program, a person must fill in a P650 form where they are required to answer a series of 'personal history' questions, including whether they have ever been subject to a domestic violence order or have a mental illness. The form is a declaration by the applicant that they are a 'fit and proper person', but there is no means for gun clubs to check whether this is actually the case.

³² Figures obtained from NSW Firearms Registry under *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* (NSW)

³³ Audit Office of New South Wales, 18 February 2019, 'Firearms regulation', Performance Report.

³⁴ <https://shootingcentre.nsw.gov.au/all-events/try-shooting>

If an applicant ticks 'yes' to one of the questions a gun club is not permitted to allow that applicant to participate in the 'Try Shooting' program. But an applicant can appeal this decision to the NSW Firearms Registry.

The program places enormous responsibility on gun clubs to administer and supervise 'Try Shooting' program participants. Yet gun clubs have no means to confirm whether the person applying to access the firearm is the person they declare they are. Essentially the program is based on self-assessment by the applicant and simple trust that the Club will provide the supervision required.

The onus is on the gun club to ensure the applicant answers the questions and signs the form. Under clause 129(4), the gun clubs are required to prevent a person from possessing or using a firearm at the shooting range, or as part of the course, if the person answered "yes" to any of the questions.

Pursuant to clause 129(4) the club must make available for inspection, by a police officer or officer of the Firearms Registry, any record made under subclause 2 or 3 (these subclauses relate to the P650 form).

Yet evidence suggests clubs are struggling to provide the direct supervision and failing to properly vet participants. Since 2002 the 'Try Shooting' program has been connected to more than ten deaths, where a person has either accessed a firearm to kill themselves or someone else.³⁵

In 2015 a coronial inquest into the suicide death of Mr Shirin Molnar, heard the NSW Firearms Registry was opposed to the amendment that made the Try Shooting program possible.

For this Report Card, GCA sought information about the program under access to information legislation. In particular, GCA sought information about the number P650 forms where applicants answered 'yes' to one of the personal history questions. GCA was informed by the NSW Registry such information is not available because gun clubs are not required to submit completed P650 forms, even where an applicant has answered 'yes' to a personal history question.

³⁵ ABC News, 18 March 2015 by Lorna Knowles, 'Widow of man who killed himself at Sydney shooting range calls for tighter gun controls in NSW'.

According to the NSW Firearms Registry, a gun club only submits the P650 form to the NSW Firearms Registry if the applicant answered 'yes' and seeks a review of the gun clubs' decision to refuse access to a firearm. Unless the police or Firearms Registry requires the forms to be made available, as per clause 129(4). The inability to adequately scrutinize the P650 applicants' personal history is a serious and dangerous flaw in this scheme.

GCA also sought information about: the number of persons refused access to the 'Try Shooting' program because the applicant answered 'yes' to a personal history question; the number of minors participating in the program and the number of schools. Again, GCA was informed the NSW Firearms Registry does not hold such information because the P650 are not submitted to the Registry.

Under clause 129(4)(c) of the *Firearms Regulation 2017* a gun club must make P650 forms available for inspection to a police officer or an officer of the NSW Firearms Registry. In 2018 only 16 per cent (98) of gun clubs were subjected to an inspection of P650 records.

Table: No. of gun club inspections conducted for the period 2015-16 to 2017-18³⁶

Financial Year	Number of club inspections
2015-16	91
2016-17	86
2017-18	98

³⁶ Figures obtained from NSW Firearms Registry under *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* (NSW)

Recreational Hunting

At 1st February 2019 the most common genuine reason for acquiring a gun licence in NSW is for the purpose of 'recreational hunting/vermin control' (63 per cent of licenses are approved for recreational hunting).

The firearms used for recreational hunting, category A and B, is the largest category of gun ownership in Australia.³⁷

Recreational hunters are predominantly male (97 per cent) and between 30 and 49 years of age. Recreational hunters either live in the Sydney region and go hunting as a form of recreation or live in rural and regional areas.³⁸

In NSW the various 'genuine reasons' available to applicants to obtain a recreational hunting licence is in a breach of the NFA 1996, which only allows for one 'genuine reason' - proof of permission from a land owner as a valid reason.

In NSW to obtain a firearm licence for recreational hunting the applicant must establish a genuine reason under s.12 (Table) of the *Firearms Act 1996* (NSW). In NSW a 'genuine reason' includes:

- A member of an approved hunting club, OR
- The owner/occupier of rural land, OR
- A person who has permission to shoot from an owner/occupier of rural land, OR
- A person who has permission to shoot from a government agency, including National Parks and Wildlife Service

If an applicant obtains a hunting licence for the 'genuine reason' a member of an approached hunting club, the licence holder only has to participate in two hunting club events for each compliance period (Clause 108, *Firearms Regulation 2017*). If an individual has a club membership and permission to shoot on property for recreational purposes, then the club participation requirement does not apply. There are 229 approved hunting clubs across NSW.³⁹

³⁷ Gunpolicy.org at <https://www.gunpolicy.org/firearms/citation/quotes/11732>

³⁸ Game Licensing Unit, Department of Primary Industries, 'Economic Impact of Recreational Hunting in NSW', 21 May 2017 pg 7

³⁹ GIPA statistics obtained from NSW Firearms Registry, 2018.

'Genuine reason' for recreational hunting can be established on the basis of being an owner or occupier of rural land OR having permission to shoot from an owner/occupier. It is fairly easy to meet this regulatory criteria. An individual needs to either provide certification of ownership or occupancy of land or details of a person giving permission to shoot on their land.

Recreational hunting and trophy hunting businesses have sprung up in NSW promoted to people who live in the city who want to go and hunt. The business links them up with private property owners across rural NSW. The websites host shooting galleries profiling the latest animal culling. Such hunting parties were not the intention of the NFA 1996 and represent an expansion of the 'genuine reason' for recreational hunting licence.

See: <http://www.highcountryhunting.com.au/contact-us/>
<http://gameonadventures.com.au>
<https://www.westernhunting.com.au>
<https://www.bookyourhunt.com/hunting-in-australia>

Game hunting licence

In NSW a game hunting licence is required to hunt game species (deer and ducks) on private land, or to hunt any species on public land. There are two different recreational game licences available for hunting in NSW: a General Class Licence and a Restricted Class Licence.

A General Class Licence allows the holder to hunt game animals on private land only.

A Restricted Class Licence allows the holder to hunt game animals and pests on public and private land. A person as young as twelve years of age may obtain either licence.

Sixty-nine per cent of NSW game hunting licence holders live in NSW, and 20 per cent in Victoria. The remainder mostly reside in Queensland and the ACT.⁴⁰

According to a report prepared by the Department of Primary Industries, in 2017 there were:

19,000 recreational game hunting licence holders in NSW, or whom around 15,000 hold a firearm licence. There are further 167,000 hunters who hold a firearms licence,

⁴⁰ Game Licensing Unit, Department of Primary Industries, 'Economic Impact of Recreational Hunting in NSW', 21 May 2017

but do not hold a game hunting licence. There are also an estimated 40,000 hunters who hunt non-indigenous animals on private land without a firearm (i.e. using bow or dogs). There is an estimated total of 226,000 people who hunt in NSW.⁴¹

The main group of animals hunted in NSW are: game animals such as deer and introduced game birds; native birds and feral or “pest animals”.

Hunting on public lands

In NSW, game hunting is allowed in State forests, and on Crown and other private land. There is currently no recreational hunting permitted in National Parks in NSW but NPWS partners with shooters to remove pest animals, such as foxes, rabbits and pigs, in 12 national parks and reserves.⁴²

In 2012 the NSW Liberal Government struck a deal with the Shooters Party (now the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party (SFFP) to sell off the state’s electricity infrastructure in return for allowing shooters to cull feral animals in National Parks.⁴³ In 2012 the New South Wales government opened up hunting in public lands including State Forests. There are currently 200 such State Forests open for recreational hunting.⁴⁴

In December 2017 the NSW DPI introduced a program to reduce what they called “red tape” and barriers to participation by both landholders and hunters.⁴⁵

In late 2018, the NSW Government lifted deer hunting regulations across the state, including regulations for vehicle and spotlight hunting on private property. The SFFP has expressed interest in opening up national parks for recreational hunting and is a growing political force in NSW. Hunting advocates such as NSW MP Robert Borsak of SFFP are pushing for further access to more national parks to hunt deer, which, amongst other things, poses a risk to public safety.⁴⁶

Safari Hunting

⁴¹ Ibid at page 6

⁴² <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/questions/licence-hunt-national-park>

⁴³ https://www.huffingtonpost.com.au/2016/09/20/has-australia-become-complacent-about-guns_a_21473225/

⁴⁴ www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/hunting/where-can-i-hunt

⁴⁵

https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/lc/papers/DBAssets/tabledpaper/WebAttachments/70/Game%20Council%20of%20NSW%20Annual%20Report%202013-14_Final.pdf

⁴⁶ <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-11-19/nsw-lifts-some-deer-hunting-restrictions/10510186>

Trophy hunting safari tours are allowed to operate in NSW. Such tours are promoted to overseas visitors who wish to come and hunt in Australia.

<http://www.australiawidesafaris.com.au/hunting-safaris/wild-goat-hunting-safaris/>

<http://havagoaustralia.com.au>

Under clause 65 of the *Firearms Regulation 2017* a business may apply for a permit to conduct safari tours in NSW for those wanting to hunt deer and other animals.

Under clause 66 of the *Firearms Regulation 2017* a person who is visiting NSW from another country may apply for a permit to participate in such a tour.

Table: Permits issued for Safari Tours and Safari Participants for period 2016-2018

Permit type	2016	2017	2018
Safari Tour Permits	0	2	0
Safari Participant Permits	3	5	7

Silencers

In February 2016, in response to the pressure from the gun lobby, the NSW government agreed to include 'recreational hunting' as a genuine reason for owning and possessing a silencer (also known as a sound suppressor). This decision did not require parliamentary approval.

Prior to the form to apply for a prohibited weapons permit in 2016 being amended, the *Weapons Prohibition Act* provided that recreational/sporting purposes is a genuine reason for prohibited weapons possession.

However, silencers are a 'prohibited weapon' under the *Weapons Prohibitions Act 1998* (NSW). To obtain a silencer for recreational hunting the applicant must demonstrate the recreational activity 'requires' the use of a silencer.

A recent ruling by Dr Juliet Lucy, a Senior Member of the NSW Civil and Administrative Appeals Tribunal may reflect a general rejection by the community that recreational hunters require access to silencers. Dr Juliet Lucy found, "I am not satisfied that recreational hunting requires the possession or use of a silencer".⁴⁷

Arms Fair and NSW

Under clause 71 of the *Firearms Regulation 2017* a licensed dealer or club official may apply for a permit to hold an Arms Fair in NSW. Arms Fairs have caused immense concerns to community groups in the areas where these fairs are being held. The NSW Greens MP, David Shoebridge, has pointed out that very few applications for Arms Fair Permits are refused and NSW Police have failed to provide the criteria on which such arms fair permit applications are determined.⁴⁸

An Arms Fair Permit allows a licensed firearm dealer to sell firearms, ammunition and firearm parts at the Arms Fair.

⁴⁷ Sydney Morning Herald, Rachel Clun, January 21, 2019, 'NSW government seeks advice after tribunal ruling on silences'.

⁴⁸ Sydney Morning Herald, Anna Patty, March 11, 2015, 'NSW State Election 2015: Greens Highlight Arms Fairs': <https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/nsw-state-election-2015-greens-highlight-arms-fairs-20150310-140b7y.html>.

In 2019 there are five Arms Fairs scheduled to take place in NSW

- Mar 09 Bathurst Arms Fair at Bathurst
- May 18 Sydney Antique & Modern Arms Collectables Expo at Panthers, Penrith
- Aug 10 & 11 Sydney Antique & Modern Arms and Collectables Expo at Panthers, Penrith
- Sept 21 Hunter Valley Arms Fair at Maitland Federation Basketball Stadium
- Nov 09 & 10 Sydney Antique & Modern Arms and Collectables Expo at Panthers, Penrith

Table: No. of Arms Fair Permits issued for period 2016 to 2018

Type	2016	2017	2018
Arms Fair Permits	10	11	12

Crime, violence and firearms

Stolen firearms

From Jan 2018 to Dec 2018 there were 454 guns stolen in NSW and 591 stolen the previous year the majority stolen from residential dwellings followed by farmhouses. The majority of firearms stolen were rifles (310) followed by shotguns (50) and air rifles (27). There were also twenty four side by side 2-barrel shotguns stolen and eight under & over 2-barrel shotguns.

A high number of firearms were stolen from the Central West (70), followed by Far West and Orana (44) and Capital Region (44). In the Sydney Region, 20 were stolen from Outer West and Blue Mountains and 15 from Outer South West.

In Jan 2018 to Dec 2018 firearms were also stolen from a hardware store, camping area, factory, bush humpy, car park, entertainment premise and a machinery shed.

From 2007 to 2018 there were 7,105 firearms stolen in NSW. NSW has had the largest number of firearms stolen in Australia.⁴⁹

Table 4
NSW Recorded Crime Statistics 01Jan2009 to 31Dec2018.
Number of stolen firearm objects by type of firearm and financial year.

Note: Starting November 2014 BOCSSAR adopted a new method to count stolen firearms in recorded crime statistics. This follows advice from the NSW Police Force which showed that some stolen firearms have an object status other than 'stolen'. For that reason, BOCSSAR now counts firearms with the object status 'stolen' or 'recovered', plus for theft incidents (including break and enter) 'subsequently returned or sent for sale' or 'still in police possession or destroyed' as stolen. This change will increase the number of firearms BOCSSAR reports as stolen.

Firearm type	Jan 2009-Dec 2009	Jan 2010-Dec 2010	Jan 2011-Dec 2011	Jan 2012-Dec 2012	Jan 2013-Dec 2013	Jan 2014-Dec 2014	Jan 2015-Dec 2015	Jan 2016-Dec 2016	Jan 2017-Dec 2017	Jan 2018-Dec 2018
RIFLE	340	347	481	510	418	479	384	539	354	310
AIR RIFLE	13	34	38	38	20	44	28	31	23	27
TRANQUILISING RIFLE	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
AIR PISTOL	3	0	2	6	0	5	0	0	2	2
PISTOL	44	56	20	79	19	52	24	31	61	4
SHOTGUN	115	67	102	75	82	66	67	96	56	50
POWERHEAD	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
BLANK FIRE PISTOL	1	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
PAINTBALL GUN	0	13	4	53	0	31	13	139	6	4
OTHER FIREARM	10	16	4	10	11	11	15	6	9	6
MACHINE GUN	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SHORTENED RIFLE	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
SAWN OFF SHOT GUN	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
FIREARM NOT SEEN	0	1	8	0	1	1	0	1	1	1
REVOLVER	17	29	7	18	2	3	3	13	6	0
FIREARM NOT DESCRIBED	3	0	12	0	1	1	1	5	0	0
REPLICA FIREARM	10	11	4	7	4	13	7	3	10	0
BARREL	1	1	1	4	0	3	1	2	1	2
COMBINATION RIFLE/SHOTGUN	0	1	2	2	4	4	1	0	3	0
DOUBLE RIFLE	1	2	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
MULTIPLY SPLITLOAD C/FIRE RFL	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
SINGLE BARREL SHOTGUN	5	10	19	23	17	36	24	26	18	15
COACHGUN SGL SHORT BARREL	1	0	0	2	4	0	1	1	0	0
UNDER & OVER 2-BRL SHTGUN	8	13	7	9	10	21	13	9	12	8
SIDE BY SIDE 2-BRL SHTGUN	3	17	12	31	30	35	33	36	29	24
COACHGUN DBL SHORT BARREL	1	4	1	1	4	0	0	0	0	0
Total	577	626	728	870	630	810	616	938	591	454

Source: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, reference 19-17275
Please retain this reference number for future correspondence.

NOTE: Data sourced from the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research
Must be acknowledged in any document (electronic or otherwise) containing that data.
The acknowledgement should take the form of 'Source: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research'

⁴⁹ Gun Control Australia –Issues Paper – Firearm Theft in Australia 2007-2017. Statistics obtained via FOI.

Firearm offences⁵⁰

Table: Selected recorded offences where a firearm was used for the period 2016 to 2017⁵¹

Offence type	Weapon	July 2016 to June 2017	July 2017 to June 2018 ⁵²
Murder	Handgun*	2	0
	Firearm exclude Handgun**	11	8
	Other Weapon	32	20
	No Weapon Recorded	29	26
	Total	74	54
Assault	Handgun*	40	14
	Firearm exclude Handgun**	98	91
	Other Weapon	2955	2790
	No Weapon Recorded	60071	60235
	Total	63164	63130
Robbery	Handgun*	61	52
	Firearm exclude Handgun**	91	98
	Other Weapon	772	840
	No Weapon Recorded	1446	1492
	Total	2370	2482

In 2018 the New South Wales Police Force reported that 223 non-fatal shootings occurred in New South Wales from July 2017 to June 2018. This is an increase from 202 incidents in the previous year and 211 the year earlier.

However annual homicide shootings to June 2018 totaled 8, down from 9 in both previous years. Alarming, incidences of shooting into premises increased significantly from 51 and 54 in previous years to 69 incidents in the year to June 2018.

Incidents of unlawfully discharging a firearm were 116 in the year to June 2018, an increase from 96 in 2017 and a slight increase from 115 in 2016. Assaults with a firearm in 2018 numbered 30, decreasing from 43 in 2017 and 36 in 2016.

⁵⁰ Figures obtained from the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research on request by GCA.

⁵¹ NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research - NSW Recorded Crime Statistics July 2016 to June 2018- provided on request by GCA.

⁵² * Includes police weapons categories: Handgun Not Further Described, Revolver** Includes police weapons categories: Other Firearms eg Military Weapon, Shotgun, Rifle, Machine Gun, Firearm/Weapon Not Further Described, Firearm/Weapon Not Seen, Speargun, Fixing Gun, Ramset Gun

Domestic violence and firearms

GCA is in the process of compiling a separate report on firearm laws and domestic violence. The report will be published later in the year. The statistics and information gathered so far reveal significant under-reporting in this area and minimal Australian research and data collection.

It has been over twenty years since the Commonwealth or States have undertaken any comprehensive research into the relationship between the ownership and storage of guns and the use of guns in domestic violence. Of particular concern is the lack of information about how firearms are used to threaten, intimidate and kill in domestic violence situations. In 2015 there was a Senate Inquiry into Domestic Violence in Australia, yet nowhere in the report does it mention the term 'gun' or 'firearm'.⁵³ This is alarming considering the level of gun ownership in Australia has researched the same heights as prior to the Port Arthur massacre and the vast majority of guns are stored in the home.⁵⁴

In July 1996 the Federal Government commissioned a confidential detailed survey of gun ownerships in Australia. The survey found that wives/partners of recreational; and sporting shooters live in fear of their husbands.⁵⁵ It was the first detailed survey of gun ownership in Australia.

Recent research published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) confirms many victims do not report incidents of physical and face-to-face threatened assaults to police. The research also found women are more likely than men to experience physical and threatened assault by a male perpetrator who is known to them, and the violence most commonly occurs in the home.⁵⁶

GCA obtained statistics from BOCSAR on the number of domestic violence incidents in NSW involving a firearm for the period 2013 to 2018.⁵⁷ The statistics reveal the following:

- There were 23 murders using a firearm. A rifle was the most common firearm used for these offences.
- There were 178 incidents of stalking, intimidation and harassment with a firearm
- There were 174 incidents of domestic violence related assaults with a firearm

⁵³ Parliament of Australia, 20 August 2015, Report: Domestic Violence in Australia.

⁵⁴ ABC News, 14 January 2013, 'Australian owns as many guns as in 1996'.

⁵⁵ Sunday Telegraph, 21 July 1996, p 28-29, 'Wives 'fear husbands with guns'.

⁵⁶ Australian Bureau of Statistics, Crime Victimization Australia 2017-2018, released 13 February 2019

⁵⁷ This data counts the number of incidents reported to, or detected by, the NSW Police. It does not reflect persons convicted in court.

- There were 8 incidents of abduction and kidnapping.
- There were 4 incidents of sexual offences involving a firearm

A 2014 report prepared by BOCSAR titled 'Legal service for defendants in Apprehended Domestic Violence Order (ADVO) proceedings: An evaluation', noted threatened assault can include situations where a gun or other weapons was left in an obvious place or when the person knew the perpetrator has access to a gun.⁵⁸

The shooting last year by John Edwards of his two children, grievously highlights the alarming legislative and procedural gaps that allow a person to access a firearm during a difficult family custody dispute and when there has been past history of domestic violence.

Mr Edwards gained access to a firearm after shopping around for a gun club that would allow him access to firearms. Edwards was able to join St Mary's Indoor Shooting Centre, owned by the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia. He then obtained a permit and gun licence before legally purchasing his own firearms.⁵⁹ In December last year, Olga Edwards, the mother of the two children, was found dead at her home.⁶⁰

In response to this devastating tragedy, GCA has written to the Commonwealth Attorney General and the NSW Attorney General and Police Minister, calling for the establishment of an automated information sharing system between the NSW Firearm Registry and the Family Law Courts, to ensure risk factors are flagged when a party to family court proceedings applies for firearm license or to renew an existing license.

GCA is also advocating for immediate research by government agencies such as the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, into gun ownership and storage and domestic violence incidents.

⁵⁸ Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, Lily Trimboli, 'Legal service for defendants in Apprehended Domestic Violence Order (ADVO) proceedings: An evaluation', Crime and Justice Bulletin, No. 179, November 2014.

⁵⁹ Sydney Morning Herald, July 7, 2018, 'John Edwards should never have been allowed to buy a gun, say critics' by Nick O'Malley.

⁶⁰ Sydney Morning Herald, December 12, 2018, 'Mother of children killed by father in Sydney found dead' by Lucy Cormack.

Illegal hunting in NSW

In NSW illegal hunting is rife and out of control. The NSW government have done very little to tackle this exploding problem which is causing immense concern to land owners whose lives are threatened and property damaged.

In July 2019, in response to building pressure to do something about illegal hunting, the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI), NSW Farmers Association and NSW Police Force are conducting a Private Land Survey about Illegal Hunting in NSW.⁶¹ In the media release announcing the survey, NSW DPI Game Licensing Unit Compliance Program leader, Richard Varvel stated, “Hunters not having permission from landholders and land managers to hunt on both private and public land continues to be an issue.”

In 2017 in response to the illegal hunting problem the DPI launched the ‘Shut the gate on illegal hunting’ program.⁶² The aim of the program is to inform private land owners about illegal hunting and ways to report such conduct to police. The program outlines how illegal hunting is having a disturbing impact on land owners including: harassment and intimidation, destruction and disturbance of stock, damage to farm infrastructure and potential biosecurity threats through the transport of feral animals, weeds and pathogens. The program information sheet also outlines the signs of illegal hunting which include:

- Spent cartridges
- Signs with bullet holes
- Dead or injured animals with gunshot or other trauma wounds
- Vehicles with number plates missing and stray hunting dogs

In August 2017 the NSW Minister of Police, Troy Grant, announced increased flexibility for police to seize vehicles connected with a game hunting offence; and the doubling of the maximum financial penalty for illegal hunting on private land from \$1,100 to \$2,200.⁶³

Data obtained by GCA from the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research NSW (BOCSAR) reveal that for the period 2016-2017 to 2017-2018, there has only been ten convictions for illegal hunting offences under the s.28(J)(2) of the *Summary offences Act 1988* and the s.16(1) *Game and Feral Animal Control Act 2002*.

⁶¹ Department of Primary Industries, 13 July 2018, ‘Illegal hunting to be targeted in statewide survey’

⁶² Department of Primary Industries, May 2017, Prime Fact 1498, First Edition. ‘Shut the gate on illegal hunting program’

⁶³ Daily Liberal, August 21, 2017, NSW Minister for Police Troy Grant announces tougher laws for rural crime’.

Outlined below are some recent concerning illegal hunting incidents:

- A 71-year-old woman and her grandchildren were feeding goats on their property when a mob of the animals ran up the hill towards them. This was immediately followed by a volley of gunshots. The victim located three men who were trespassing on the victim's property.⁶⁴
- A couple on a property bordering the world heritage listed Jenolan Karst Conservation Reserve describe the terrible ordeal of capturing on CCTV illegal hunting on their property, which showed slaughter of wombats and wallabies and police not acting.⁶⁵
- Near Mudgee, a resident reported gunshots in the night, a flashlight and some unfamiliar voices.⁶⁶
- A man was found travelling through Couradda National Park NSW, with two hunting dogs on board and another two dogs running nearby.⁶⁷
- A man was found guilty of hunting deer on a property without a NSW Game Licence.⁶⁸

Illegal hunting is not just occurring on private land, but also in National Parks. The extent of illegal hunting in National Parks was identified in a survey conducted by the Public Service Association of NSW' National Park staff.⁶⁹ The survey asked participants to describe what they had observed as signs of illegal hunting in National Parks. The signs included:

- Shooting of kangaroos, emus, koalas, deer, wombats and dingos with carcasses left behind and animals found shot with arrows.
- Dead Livestock on private property
- Landholders and rangers intimidated, threatened with violence
- Bullet holes in signs and picnic areas
- Many lost pig dogs that subsequently become feral

⁶⁴ Wellington Times, September 7, 2018, 'Illegal hunting, photos released by police'.

⁶⁵ Sydney Morning Herald, October 2, 2015 by Kirsty Needham, 'Rambo hunters wreck bush couple's peaceful paradise but NSW Police do nothing'.

⁶⁶ Mudgee Guardian, February 21 2019, 'Illegal Hunting, Mudgee, Shots fire, flashlight seen at fence' by Nadine Morton.

⁶⁷ The Northern Daily Leader, December 11, 2018, 'New England Police Rural Crime Prevention team target illegal hunting in Moree area

⁶⁸ Bombala Times, November 5, 2018, 'Illegal hunter fined \$3,300 in snowy mountains'.

⁶⁹ Public Service Association, 'Hunting in National Parks- Summary of Public Service Association Survey', 12 Sept 2012: <https://psa.asn.au/rangers-warn-unauthorised-hunting-rife-national-parks-survey/>

	Jul 2016 - Jun 2017	Jul 2017 - Jun 2018	
Penalty	Summary Offences Act 1988	Summary Offences Act 1988	Game and Feral Animal Control Act 2002
	28J(2)	28J(2)	16(1)
Imprisonment	0	0	0
Juvenile control order	0	0	0
Home detention	0	0	0
Pre-reform Intensive Correction Order	0	0	0
Suspended sentence with supervision	0	0	0
Suspended sentence without supervision	0	0	0
Pre-reform or Children's Community Service Order	0	0	0
Juvenile probation order	0	0	0
Bond with supervision	0	0	0
Bond without supervision	0	0	0
Fine	3	3	2
Conviction only	0	2	0
Bond without conviction with supervision	0	0	0
Bond without conviction without supervision	0	0	0
No conviction recorded	0	0	0
Other penalties	0	0	0
Total	3	5	2

*Where a person has been found guilty of more than one offence, the offence which received the most serious penalty is the principal offence.

Source: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research

New South Wales and compliance with the 1996 National Firearms Agreement (NFA).⁷⁰

In 1996 in response to the Port Arthur massacre where 36 people were killed and 19 others injured in a mass shooting, the commonwealth, states and territories reached a bipartisan agreement to strengthen Australia's gun laws. Each jurisdiction agreed to amend their firearm laws to ensure the laws complied with the resolutions set out in the NFA. At the time, Bob Carr was the Premier of NSW and he had to contend with fierce opposition to the new laws from the Shooters Party's John Tingle who held a seat in the NSW Legislative Council.⁷¹

In 2017, GCA commissioned a report into jurisdictional compliance with the 1996 National Firearms Agreement (NFA). The report prepared by Philip Alpers, Adjunct Associate Professor, Sydney School of Public Health, University of Sydney, provides a detailed analysis of State and Territory legislation to determine the level of compliance with the 1996 NFA. The report reveals that after two decades of political pressure Australia's gun laws are under pressure.

The report found eleven breaches of NFA resolutions by New South Wales. The key breaches are:

1. Now allows the use of firearm silencers for recreational hunting, which are a prohibited weapon
2. Exempts all antique firearms except revolvers from firearm registration
3. Extends permission for the use of semi-automatic firearms to shooters whose occupation is not pest control
4. Permits people to be trained in the use of firearms without undergoing firearm licensing
5. Permits people to use firearms on safari tours without undergoing firearm licensing
6. Exempts from firearm licensing children 12 years of age or over, shooting under supervision
7. Adds membership of a hunting club as a 'genuine reason' for firearm possession
8. Exempts from the NFA's 28-day 'cooling off' period a permit to acquire second or subsequent A or B category firearms
9. Does not require good reason for a permit to acquire more firearms of a category already held
10. Permits the use of pistols of higher calibre than the NFA allows in two handgun competitions

⁷⁰ Photo from iStock by Davidscar.

⁷¹ Simon Chapman, 2006, 'Over our dead bodies', University Press

11. Specifies no limit to the quantity of ammunition which may be purchased.

NSW is the most obvious example of compliance ‘slippage’.⁷² In fact, NSW permits the use of prohibited firearms more widely than do other jurisdictions.⁷³ For example, the *Firearms and Weapons Legislation Amendment Act 2017* added club participation requirements for the genuine reasons of sport shooting (Cl. 27(1)) and recreational hunting/vermin control (Cl. 29(1)). And although not mentioned in its Act or Regulations, NSW allows the use of silencers, which are prohibited weapons.⁷⁴ Further, NSW exempts unlicensed persons undertaking firearm safety training. It also exempts unlicensed persons 12 years of age or over who may shoot on an approved shooting range under the direct supervision of an appropriately licensed firearm owner. *Firearms Regulations 2006* (NSW), reg. 59-60 allow safari tour permits for A & B category firearms, while reg. 66 exempts unlicensed persons 12 years of age or over to shoot at a permitted club open day.⁷⁵

NSW also gives the Commissioner a discretion to licence category B and C firearms for a ‘special need’ (these include muzzle-loading firearms (other than pistols), centre-fire rifles (other than self-loading), shotgun/centre-fire rifle combinations, lever action shotguns with a magazine capacity of no more than 5 rounds, self-loading rimfire rifles with a magazine capacity of no more than 10 rounds, self-loading shotguns with a magazine capacity of no more than 5 rounds, pump action shotguns with a magazine capacity of no more than 5 rounds.).⁷⁶

Whilst in NSW a ‘good reason’ must be established to obtain a licence for a category H firearm (pistols, including blank fire pistols and air pistols), the NSW application form for a permit to acquire subsequent firearms does not require that a ‘good reason’ for acquisition be stated. Instead, signature of the form seems sufficient to claim ‘good reason’.⁷⁷

⁷² Alpers, Philip: *Firearm Legislation in Australia 21 Years After the National Firearms Agreement*, Gun Control Australia, October 2017.

⁷³ Alpers, Philip: *Firearm Legislation in Australia 21 Years After the National Firearms Agreement*, Gun Control Australia, October 2017.

⁷⁴ Alpers, Philip: *Firearm Legislation in Australia 21 Years After the National Firearms Agreement*, Gun Control Australia, October 2017.

⁷⁵ Alpers, Philip: *Firearm Legislation in Australia 21 Years After the National Firearms Agreement*, Gun Control Australia, October 2017.

⁷⁶ Alpers, Philip: *Firearm Legislation in Australia 21 Years After the National Firearms Agreement*, Gun Control Australia, October 2017.

⁷⁷ Alpers, Philip: *Firearm Legislation in Australia 21 Years After the National Firearms Agreement*, Gun Control Australia, October 2017.

Further, NSW only obliquely complies with the national registry requirement of the NFA. And where NFA non-compliance occurs above 'entry level,' or category A firearms, in most cases requirements for B, C, D and H firearms (handguns and larger-calibre, or semi-automatic rifles and shotguns) are now less stringent than they were in 1996.⁷⁸

⁷⁸ Alpers, Philip: *Firearm Legislation in Australia 21 Years After the National Firearms Agreement*, Gun Control Australia, October 2017.

Gun Lobby in NSW

Representation in NSW Parliament

The gun lobby tries to wield the most power at the state level mainly through the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party (SFFP).

In 2016 the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers updated their name from Shooters and Fishers to broaden their appeal to rural communities. They now claim to be focusing on more general issues for rural people.⁷⁹ In January 2019 Orange SFFP MP Philip Donato dropped SFFP branding from his promotional materials ahead of the coming NSW state election, potentially to broaden his appeal to widen voting sectors.⁸⁰

The SFFP spent around \$30,000 for the Orange State By-election.⁸¹

In New South Wales the SFFP has two members in the state's Upper House and welcomed its first Lower House MP at the Orange by-election in 2016 with the benefit of ALP preferences.

The party is intending to run candidates in 23 electorates in an attempt to increase its party numbers in the Lower House.⁸² SFFP is planning to field more candidates in the 2019 state election than in any previous elections. Eighteen electorates have already named candidates in an attempt to capitalize on the success of the Orange by-election by appealing to disaffected rural voters.

A key policy from SFFP is to scrap the 28-day cooling off period imposed for people wishing to purchase more than three firearms. It also advocated removing some restrictions on high-calibre hand guns and repeating rifles that it believes are too onerous and have held back legitimate shooting sports. SFFP MP Robert Borsak claimed the money the government was spending regulating access to guns by 'responsible, licensed owners' could be better spent on policing and pursuing criminals. It also wants to allow recreational hunting in National

⁷⁹ <https://www.smh.com.au/politics/nsw/shooters-fishers-and-farmers-all-fired-up-for-state-election-20181211-p50lju.html>

⁸⁰ <https://www.weeklytimesnow.com.au/news/politics/orange-mp-philip-donato-drops-shooters-party-branding/news-story/e58a566c85db305bcee1f692c68a3541>

⁸¹ Electoral Commission NSW, Disclosure details for Party SFFP, disclosure period 1 July 16 to 30 June 2017

⁸² ABC News, 7 Feb 2019 by Kelly Fuller, 'Shooters MP Robert Brown rolled in push for generation change weeks from NSW election'

Parks.⁸³ SFFP also seeks to lower the age at which a child can obtain a minor's gun permit to ten years.⁸⁴

In addition, SFFP has a platform to repeal the National Firearms Agreement altogether.⁸⁵

In 2016 the NSW Greens introduced a Gun Control portfolio to keep the focus on what they considered to be complacency about NSW's gun control laws, particularly in relation to domestic violence, citing the rising power of SFFP who hold the balance of power in the Upper House at the time of this Report.⁸⁶

Firearm industry lobbyist

The Electoral Commission NSW maintains a Register of Third-Party Lobbyists. One of the main firearm lobbyist in NSW is the The Australian Firearms Management Lobby Group owned by W J Wilcher.

Thales Australia Ltd, a French based tech defence company, owns Lithgow Arms in Lithgow NSW that manufactures firearms for the defence and the civilian market in Australia. The company has engaged the lobbying services of Lyndon George Pty Ltd. In 2017 the company put in a tender to produce long arms for the NSW Police Force. If successful the rifles will be produced at Lithgow Arms.⁸⁷ In 2016 Thales Australia's revenue was more than A\$1 billion, and over the last 10 years the company has exported more than A\$1.6 billion of products from Australia.⁸⁸

Entity	Client
Lyndon George Pty LTd	Thales Australia Ltd
The Australian Firearms Management Lobby Group	Covenanter Arms
The Australian Firearms Management Lobby Group	Over 30 individual clients

⁸³ <https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/the-killer-quirk-hiding-in-australias-gun-laws-20171006-gyvmho.html>

⁸⁴ <https://www.sbs.com.au/news/nsw-labor-won-t-rule-out-shooters-deal>

⁸⁵ <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2017/oct/07/the-gun-lobby-pressure-is-mounting-lets-hope-our-leaders-wont-buckle>

⁸⁶ https://www.huffingtonpost.com.au/2016/09/20/has-australia-become-complacent-about-guns_a_21473225/

⁸⁷ Lithgow Mercury, March 16, 2017, 'Lithgow Arms sets sight on Lithgow contract by Kirsty Horton.

⁸⁸ Parliament NSW, Inquiry into the Defence Industry in NSW, 30 June 2017, Thales Australia, Submission No.28

Gun lobby and donations to NSW political parties

The Australian Electoral Commission financial disclosures for the period 2017-2018 reported the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party (SFFP) declared total receipts of \$132,111.⁸⁹ One of the big donors to the party was NSW Amateur Pistol Association donating a total of \$27,600. The Federation for Hunting, which is an Associated Entity of the SFFP, declared total receipts of \$47,966.

The Electoral Commission NSW political party disclosures for the period July 2017 to June 2018 report the SFFP received \$87,451 in donations from various donors including: Parramatta Pistol and Shooting Club Inc. donated \$6,000; Hunter District Hunting Club Inc. donated \$6,000; SCI Downunder Inc (which is a safari club) donated \$6,000 and Singleton Hunting Club Inc. donated \$5,000.

The NSW Sporting Shooters Association (NSW) donated \$1,455 to the SFFP and \$1455 to the Liberal Democrats.⁹⁰

For the period 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 the SFFP received \$47,382 in donations. The donors included organisations who were not firearm orientated including: NSW Greyhound Breeders Association and United Service Union and Greyhound Action Group NSW Inc.⁹¹

Gun lobby and preference deals

In December 2018 NSW ALP Leader Michael Daley refused to rule out doing a preference deal with the SFFP in the 2019 NSW election, while Liberal Premier Gladys Berejiklian stated that her party would not do preference deals with SFFP.⁹²

The One Nation party intends to contest 15 lower house seats at the NSW 2019 election. The party's prime candidate, Mark Latham, told the Sydney Morning Herald the party had done a preference swap in the upper house with the SFFP.⁹³

⁸⁹ Australian Election Commission, Financial Disclosures 2017-18.

⁹⁰ Electoral Commission NSW, Financial Disclosures for period 2017-2018

⁹¹ Electoral Commission NSW, Financial Disclosures for period 2016-2017

⁹² <https://www.sbs.com.au/news/nsw-labor-won-t-rule-out-shooters-deal>

⁹³ Sydney Morning Herald, February 3, 2019 by Lisa Visentin, 'They're my policies': Mark Latham's return from political wilderness'.

One Nation has a 'Firearms and Gun Control' policy platform which includes: removing the genuine reason test for each firearm; remove the 28-day waiting period for purchasing handguns; allowing recreational hunting without any permission from land owner and creating a single firearm licensing system.⁹⁴

The pro-gun advocate David Leyonhjelm announced he will be quitting federal parliament and contesting the NSW state election.⁹⁵ Leyonhjelm is yet to inform of any preference deals but has noted his intention is to promote minor parties like One Nation and SFFP.⁹⁶

Sporting Shooters Association of Australia and SFFP

The Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (SSAA) boasts of its ties with the NRA and models its own lobbying arm on the NRA-ILA, calling it the SSA-LA. The SSAA has benefited from the NFA model in that gun club membership requirements have driven large amounts of funding to its coffers, which can then be applied to political lobbying and campaigning.⁹⁷

For 2015 SSAA in NSW reported income of \$2.4 million with assets of \$7.2 million (up 717 per cent). Through SFFP, the SSAA has alliances and it has backed the SFFP with its new wealth.⁹⁸

Before the 2011 NSW state election the SSAA's Sydney branch and the Hunter District Hunting Club each gave \$100,000 to the SFFP. In total, gun and hunting clubs gave the SFFP about \$370,000. Before the NSW 2015 election – at which \$5700 caps were in place in for party donations – gun clubs still contributed about \$40,000.⁹⁹

⁹⁴ <https://www.onenation.org.au/policies/firearms-gun-control/>

⁹⁵ Cockburn, Paige (2019-01-07). "[David Leyonhjelm to quit federal politics and contest NSW election](#)". *ABC News*. Retrieved 2019-01-08.

⁹⁶ News.com.au by Phoebe Loomes, January 7, 2019, 'Senator David Leyonhjelm will quit federal politics to contest NSW state election'.

⁹⁷ <https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/the-killer-quirk-hiding-in-australias-gun-laws-20171006-gyvmho.html>

⁹⁸ The Guardian 5 December 2016 by Paul Farrell, 'Shooting bodies \$34m dollars assets spark call to amend national firearm laws'.

⁹⁹ <https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/the-killer-quirk-hiding-in-australias-gun-laws-20171006-gyvmho.html>

Section three: Appendices

Firearm ownership statistics: NSW Firearms Registry

The total number of firearms licences holders in NSW for individuals, business, club, collector and firearms dealers as of the 1st of February 2019

Type	No. Licence Holders
Individual	236588
Business	314
Clubs	283
Collectors (only)	178
Dealers Individual	0
Dealer Business	350
Theatrical Armourer	22
Club Armourers	344
Total	238,079

A breakdown of the genuine reason(s) provided for granting of the total number of gun licences as of the 1st of February 2019

Licence CAT	Total CAT Issued
A	232,025
B	217,920
C	16,531
D	521
G	2,878
H	16,738
Total	486,613

NOTE:
G = Collector Licence

GENUINE REASONS						
Sport Target Shooting	Rec Hunting / Vermin Control	Primary Production	Vertebrate Pest	Rural Occupation	Animal Welfare	Business or Employment
53,488	193,869	41,187	1,265	1,815	4,026	1,341
47,430	184,459	37,457	1,269	1,721	3,834	1,043
568		16,058				
			521			
15,501						1,341
116,987	378,328	94,702	3,055	3,536	7,860	3,725

NOTE:
Licence categories may attract more than one genuine reason. Accordingly, the total number of genuine reasons for each category of licence does not necessarily equal the total number of licences issued under each category. For example, a Category H licence may be issued for the genuine reasons of Sport Target Shooting and Business or Employment. This would mean one Category H licence would have two genuine reasons attached to it.

Amendments to New South Wales' gun laws

Since the introduction of the 1996 gun laws, the New South Wales parliament has passed five substantial amendments to the *Firearm Act 1996* (NSW). Below is a table that outlines the significant weakening of NSW gun laws included within each amending bill.

Year	Erosion to gun law
2002	The <i>Game and Feral Animal Control Act</i> was passed. The Act established the Game Council, a Government funded body to promote "orderly" hunting on public and private land. The Game Council was the wish of John Tingle, Shooters Party member in the Legislative Council.
2005	The <i>Game and Feral Animal Control Act 2005</i> expanded the function of the Game Council to research and education.
2006	<p>Shooters Party Private members Bill passed. The Act amended the <i>Firearms Act 1996</i> and removed the requirement to revoke a gun license if a person was placed on a good behaviour bond.</p> <p>Government opened up State Forests to recreational hunting.</p>
2008	<p>Government removes the 28-day waiting period for those who wish to purchase the same type of firearm to the one they have already registered.</p> <p>Members of the public are now allowed to enter a gun club and use a high-powered firearm without a license, permit or formal background checks.</p> <p>Widening of the criteria for those who wished to apply to possess a category C - pump-action shotgun.</p> <p>Perpetrators of domestic violence who have been the subject of an apprehended violence order can immediately regain their firearms when the AVO is revoked.</p>

Year	Erosion to gun law
2010	<p>Government supports a further waiver of police checks for applicants who wish to acquire additional firearms of the same kind for which they already have a license and removed the requirement to register imitation firearms.</p> <p>Permits to acquire. No longer required to show a good reason as to why you require a second or subsequent firearm.</p>
2012	O'Farrell Government supports a Shooters and Fishers Party Bill which has opened up National Parks to hunters.
2016	Gun silencers available to recreational hunters
2017	<p>Police granted discretion to not seize firearms on breach, but instead can issue an infringement notice for a range of breaches including: storage, dealer returns, failure to produce license, notification of change of address, ammunition sale records, failure to notify genuine reason and member of hunting club.</p> <p>Government increases the allowed number of high powered category D firearm to be owned by a primary producer.</p> <p>Firearm dealers no longer have to record the address of those who buy ammunition.</p> <p>Allows recreational hunters access to 6 round, rapid-style Adler firearms and primary producer access to the 8 round rapid-style Adler.</p>

Firearms statistics: NSW Firearms Registry

Total number of firearms registered in NSW¹⁰⁰

Year Ending December 2016	
Registered firearms	Firearms in Possession
Individual	810519
Business	2233
Clubs	2705
Collectors	12176
Dealers	92408
Total	920041

Year Ending December 2017	
Registered firearm	Firearms in Possession
Individual	851785
Business	2265
Clubs	2717
Collectors	12665
Dealers	96792
Total	966224

¹⁰⁰ Figures obtain from NSW Firearms Registry under GIPA by GCA

Year Ending November 2018	
Registered firearm	Firearms in Possession
Individual	880771
Business	2306
Clubs	2713
Collectors	13118
Dealers	100139
Total	999047

Total number of firearms registered by firearm category

Year Ending November 2018	
Category	Individual, Business & Clubs
A	499,344
B	333,447
C	11,322
D	747
H	40,930
Total	885790

Category	Collectors
ABC D	7219
H	5899
Total	13118

Category	Dealers
ABC D	79,891
H	14,523
Total	94414

Total number of firearms registered by category

Year Ending December 2016	
Category	Individual, Business & Clubs
A	472,948
B	293,395
C	10,488
D	707
H	37,919
Total	815457

Category	Collectors
ABC D	7,020
H	5,156
Total	12,176

Category	Dealers
ABC D	74,198
H	13,468
Total	87,666

Year Ending December 2017	
Category	Individual, Business & Clubs
A	486,413
B	319,093
C	10,976
D	737
H	39,548
Total	856,767

Category	Collectors
ABC D	7,094
H	5,571
Total	12,665

Category	Dealers
ABC D	77,197
H	14,561
Total	91,758

Total number of licence holders by licence type

Year Ending December 2016	
Type	No. Licence Holders
Individual	227,551
Business	318
Clubs	285
Collectors (only)	189
Dealers	769
Total	229112
Year Ending December 2017	
Type	No. Licence Holders
Individual	233,369
Business	327
Clubs	289
Collectors (only)	187
Dealers	779
Total	234,951

Year Ending November 2018	
Type	No. Licence Holders
Individual	235,444
Business	321
Clubs	284
Collectors (only)	177
Dealers	725
Total	236,951

Stolen firearms figures

Table 1

NSW Recorded Crime Statistics 01Jan2009 to 31Dec2018.
Number of stolen firearm objects*
by Statistical Area and financial year.

Note: Starting November 2014 BOCsAR adopted a new method to count stolen firearms in recorded crime statistics. This follows advice from the NSW Police Force which showed that some stolen firearms have an object status other than 'stolen'. For that reason, BOCsAR now counts firearms with the object status 'stolen' or 'recovered', plus for theft incidents (including break and enter) 'subsequently returned or sent for sale' or 'still in police possession or destroyed' as stolen. This change will increase the number of firearms BOCsAR reports as stolen.

Statistical Area	Jan 2009-Dec 2009	Jan 2010-Dec 2010	Jan 2011-Dec 2011	Jan 2012-Dec 2012	Jan 2013-Dec 2013	Jan 2014-Dec 2014	Jan 2015-Dec 2015	Jan 2016-Dec 2016	Jan 2017-Dec 2017	Jan 2018-Dec 2018
Capital Region	56	45	42	13	19	42	77	60	60	44
Central Coast	3	12	55	62	15	18	17	16	2	2
Central West	88	65	78	83	61	122	65	67	60	70
Coffs Harbour - Grafton	11	10	32	11	25	15	6	14	22	5
Far West and Orana	62	42	55	96	88	96	93	178	51	44
Hunter Valley exc Newcastle	39	49	80	71	47	60	44	82	44	40
Illawarra	0	11	5	20	11	0	8	152	21	21
Mid North Coast	52	55	65	46	51	73	35	25	32	26
Murray	46	53	33	44	27	30	23	43	29	16
New England and North West	32	46	69	86	60	89	94	59	58	40
Newcastle and Lake Macquarie	12	1	24	32	19	9	11	95	9	6
Richmond - Tweed	7	9	26	11	23	25	23	22	23	42
Riverina	19	43	31	70	47	56	28	45	46	39
Southern Highlands and Shoalhaven	13	23	28	19	21	31	42	18	2	0
Sydney - Baulkham Hills and Hawkesbury	13	7	4	9	12	14	5	5	0	9
Sydney - Blacktown	3	13	7	52	8	16	2	2	0	1
Sydney - City and Inner South	17	5	10	0	9	2	0	1	5	1
Sydney - Eastern Suburbs	5	1	1	0	8	3	0	2	2	0
Sydney - Inner South West	22	15	6	29	24	4	2	9	6	3
Sydney - Inner West	3	1	0	2	4	3	5	3	0	0
Sydney - North Sydney and Hornsby	10	0	0	5	1	1	2	2	6	1
Sydney - Northern Beaches	4	2	3	0	2	0	4	0	2	1
Sydney - Outer South West	5	22	32	61	7	11	11	7	71	15
Sydney - Outer West and Blue Mountains	13	22	24	25	29	36	6	4	18	20
Sydney - Parramatta	19	52	4	8	4	13	9	20	6	4
Sydney - Ryde	3	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	9	0
Sydney - South West	20	21	12	15	6	11	4	7	7	3
Sydney - Sutherland	0	1	0	0	1	29	0	0	0	1
Total	577	626	728	870	630	810	616	938	591	454

* Firearm includes rifle, air rifle, tranquillising rifle, air pistol, pistol, shotgun, powerhead, blank fire pistol, paintball gun, other firearm, machine gun, shortened rifle, sawn off shotgun, firearm not seen, revolver, firearm not described, replica firearm, barrel, combination rifle/shotgun, double rifle, military self load rifle, single barrel shotgun, coachgun single/short barrel, under & over 2-barrel shotgun, side by side 2-barrel shotgun, and coachgun double short barrel.

Source: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, reference 19-17275

Please retain this reference number for future correspondence.

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Southern Highlands and Shoalhaven	13	23	28	19	21	31	42	18	2	0
Sydney - Baulkham Hills and Hawkesbury	13	7	4	9	12	14	5	5	0	9
Sydney - Blacktown	3	13	7	52	8	16	2	2	0	1
Sydney - City and Inner South	17	5	10	0	9	2	0	1	5	1
Sydney - Eastern Suburbs	5	1	1	0	8	3	0	2	2	0
Sydney - Inner South West	22	15	6	29	24	4	2	9	6	3
Sydney - Inner West	3	1	0	2	4	3	5	3	0	0
Sydney - North Sydney and Hornsby	10	0	0	5	1	1	2	2	6	1
Sydney - Northern Beaches	4	2	3	0	2	0	4	0	2	1
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Sydney - Baulkham Hills and Hawkesbury	13	7	4	9	12	14	5	5	0	9
Sydney - Blacktown	3	13	7	52	8	16	2	2	0	1
Sydney - City and Inner South	17	5	10	0	9	2	0	1	5	1
Sydney - Eastern Suburbs	5	1	1	0	8	3	0	2	2	0
Sydney - Inner South West	22	15	6	29	24	4	2	9	6	3
Sydney - Inner West	3	1	0	2	4	3	5	3	0	0
Sydney - North Sydney and Hornsby	10	0	0	5	1	1	2	2	6	1
Sydney - Northern Beaches	4	2	3	0	2	0	4	0	2	1
Sydney - Outer South West	5	22	32	61	7	11	11	7	71	15
Sydney - Outer West and Blue Mountains	13	22	24	25	29	36	6	4	18	20
Sydney - Parramatta	19	52	4	8	4	13	9	20	6	4
Sydney - Ryde	3	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	9	0
Sydney - South West	20	21	12	15	6	11	4	7	7	3
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Firearm categories¹⁰¹

Category A firearms

- * Air rifles.
- * Rimfire rifles (other than self-loading).
- * Shotguns (other than pump action, lever action or self-loading). * Shotgun/rimfire combinations.

All prohibited firearms are excluded from this licence category. Prohibited firearms are listed in Schedule 1 of the *Firearms Act 1996*.

Category B firearms

- * Muzzle-loading firearms (other than pistols).
- * Centre-fire rifles (other than self-loading).
- * Shotgun/centre-fire rifle combinations.
- * Lever action shotguns with a magazine capacity of no more than 5 rounds.

All prohibited firearms are excluded from this licence category. Prohibited firearms are listed in Schedule 1 of the *Firearms Act 1996*.

Category C firearms

- * Self-loading rimfire rifles with a magazine capacity of no more than 10 rounds. * Self-loading shotguns with a magazine capacity of no more than 5 rounds.
- * Pump action shotguns with a magazine capacity of no more than 5 rounds.

These firearms are prohibited except for limited purposes.

Some firearms, specifically those adapted for military purposes, are excluded under all circumstances from this licence category.

Category D firearms

- * Self-loading centre-fire rifles.
- * Self-loading rimfire rifles with a magazine capacity of more than 10 rounds. * Self-loading shotguns with a magazine capacity of more than 5 rounds.
- * Pump action shotguns with a magazine capacity of more than 5 rounds.
- * Lever action shotguns with a magazine capacity of more than 5 rounds.
- * Any firearms to which a Category C licence applies.

These firearms are prohibited except for official purposes.

Some firearms, specifically those adapted for military purposes, are excluded under all circumstances from this licence category.

Category H firearms

- * Pistols (including blank fire pistols and air pistols).

Prohibited firearms are excluded from this licence category. Prohibited pistols are not authorised for Sport/Target shooters.

¹⁰¹ NSW Police: <https://www.police.nsw.gov.au/>