



DEPARTMENT OF PREMIER AND CABINET

CABINET OFFICE

DECISION

23 September 1996

MINISTER FOR POLICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

FIREARMS LEGISLATION AND LICENSING

Cabinet today :

1. approved the schedule of fees for licenses, permits, registrations and approvals under the Firearms Act 1996, as outlined in the attachments to this decision;
2. noted the expenditure and revenue statements concerning this matter;
3. noted the finalisation of regulations and inclusions of a final Schedule of Fees is subject to consultation with stakeholders; and
4. noted that, in accordance with Cabinet Decision 211, negotiations on specific expenditure between the Department of Police and Public Safety and the Department of Treasury and Finance will be reported to the Budget Committee.

(Decision No 265)

(Minute No 227)  
(No Papers)

SECRETARY  
DEPARTMENT OF POLICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Please arrange for detailed instructions to be provided to the Chief Parliamentary Counsel so that drafting of the above legislation can proceed.

It will also be necessary for a paper to be prepared for consideration by the Parliamentary Liberal Party.

  
S P Haines  
SECRETARY

Copy to:

Secretary, Department of Justice  
Chief Parliamentary Counsel

CABINET IN CONFIDENCE

SCHEDULE OF FEES

**COPY** \$

1. Licences

- (a) application for firearms licence
  - (i) Categories A, B and H-
    - 5 years..... 70
    - 3 years..... 50
  - (ii) Category C - exceeding 12 months-
    - 5 years..... 70
    - 3 years..... 50
  - (iii) Category C - 12 months or less..... 20
  - (iv) Category D - 12 months or less..... 20
- (b) application for firearms dealer licence-
  - 3 years..... 300
- (c) application for firearms museum licence-
  - 3 years..... 100
- (d) application of firearm heirlooms licence-
  - 5 years..... 20

2 Permits

- application for permit to acquire firearm..... 5

Released under Right to Information

**COPY**

**3 Registration- \$**

- (a) application for registration of firearm for non- dealers
  - (i) one firearm..... 10
  - (ii) each additional firearm..... 5
- (b) application for registration of firearms for dealers-  
\$5 per firearm

**4. Approvals**

Application for approval of -

- (a) rifle club.....5 years..... 50
- (b) pistol shooting club.....5 years..... 50
- (c) shooting gallery (per application)...5 years..... 50
- (d) range.....5 years..... 50

**5. Agent Fees**

Fees for acting as agent in the sale/purchase of firearms between licence holders ...(Maximum)..... 10

Released under Right to Information

THE HON JOHN BESWICK  
MINISTER FOR POLICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

**FIREARMS REGISTRATION AND LICENSING**

To obtain approval for a revised schedule of fees to be included in the Firearms Regulations

September 1996

Cabinet Decision 211

Shooters Lobby and Gun Owners

Decision required urgently to establish procedures and advise applicants.

Department of Treasury and Finance  
Department of Premier and Cabinet

	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Revenue</b>
1996-97	\$1.129 Million	\$2.079 Million
1997-98	\$1.149 Million	\$0.236 Million
1998-99	\$1.087 Million	\$0.236 Million
1999-2000	\$1.097 Million	\$0.236 Million
2000-2001	\$1.097 Million	\$0.236 Million
2001-2002	\$1.282 Million	\$0.236 Million

The registration of licence fees will be part of the consultation process. Announcement not required.

None required.

Released under Right to Information

**1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1 The purpose of this minute is to obtain approval for a revised schedule of fees to be included in the Firearms Regulations.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

**2.1 I RECOMMEND** that Cabinet:

- (i) Approves the schedule of fees as outlined in Attachment 6.7.1. for licences, permits, registrations and approvals under the Firearms Act 1996.
- (ii) Notes the expenditure and revenue estimates at attachment 6.7.2.
- (iii) Notes the finalisation of regulations and inclusion of a final Schedule of Fees is subject to consultation with stakeholders.
- (iv) Notes that, in accordance with Cabinet Decision 211 negotiations on specific expenditure between the Departments of Police and Public Safety and Treasury and Finance will be reported to the Budget Committee.

Released under Right to Information

### 3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Cabinet Decision 211 gave approval to a schedule of fees for the registration of firearms, permits to purchase, dealers' fees and a licence application fee as follows:

Schedule of fees in relation to registration of firearms:-

1 Firearm	\$10 per firearm
Each additional Firearm	\$5 per firearm
Collectors	\$50
Dealers' Registration	\$200 per annum
Permit to Purchase	\$5 each Permit

Schedule for fees in relation to licences:-

New Licence Applications:	\$70 for five years OR \$50 for three years
Licence Renewal (including previous licence holders)	
Licence Variations/Losses (during licence period)	\$10

- 3.2 Issues have since arisen which require amendments to that fee schedule and the inclusion of additional fees. A revised statement of expected revenue and expenditure is included at attachment 6.7.2.

- 3.3 In Cabinet Decision 211 the costings were based on a Commonwealth contribution of \$2.5M. This contribution has now been confirmed as \$2.551M. The costs at Attachment 6.1 have been amended accordingly.

### 4. ISSUES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 The following outlines the fees associated with fees and registration:

#### Licence Application for Category A, B, C, and H Firearms

The fees of \$70 for five years and \$50 for three years as decided by Cabinet Decision 211 remain unchanged.

### Licence Application for Primary Producer Employees

A Category C firearm licence issued to an employee, or person acting as an employee, of a primary producer should be issued for a term of one year as opposed to a 3 or 5 year term. The fee of \$20 per annum will cover administration costs and will enable this category of licence to be maintained.

### Licence application for a Category D Firearm

In view of the extreme nature of this category of Firearm, a licence should be issued for a period of only one year. The fee of \$20 per person per annum is sufficient to cover administrative costs and allow ongoing monitoring.

### Dealers Licence

Cabinet Decision 211 approved a fee of \$200 per annum. Following further consultation it is recommended that this be amended to \$300 for 3 years. The current fee under the Guns Act is \$300 for three years and this change would keep it in line with the current fees.

### Museum Licence

This involves a fee for a museum licence of \$100 per annum. This nominal fee will ensure that appropriate small businesses which constitute a museum are not discouraged, however, administrative costs are covered. Public Museums are to be excluded.

### Heirloom Licences

A token fee of \$20 for 5 years will apply to cover administration costs.

### Permit to Acquire Registration of Firearms

No change from previously approved fee schedule for a permit to acquire is required. This covers administration costs.

### Initial Registration- Dealer

The registration fee for firearms held by a firearms dealer at the commencement of the Act is based on a proportional scale. These firearms will have to be

checked and registered by teams from the Department by visiting dealers

Approval of a Rifle Club or Pistol Shooting Range

This involves a \$50 one off fee be imposed subject to any conditions imposed by the Commissioner of Police.

Approval of Ranges and Shooting Galleries

This involves a fee of \$50 to apply for each application subject to any conditions imposed by the Commissioner of Police. This fee covers the cost of administration and initial inspections.

Agent Fee for Negotiating Firearm Transactions

This involves a fee to be charged by a dealer acting as the agent for a firearm transaction between licence holders. The fee has been set at \$10 to cover administrative costs.

**5. OPTIONS**

5.1 The options available in relation to fees are:

Option 1:	Approve the fee schedule in principle, subject to consultation.
Option 2:	Refer the fee schedule back to the Department of Police and Public Safety for further consideration.

5.2 Option 1 is preferred as it allows for the immediate inclusion of the fee schedules into the draft regulations. The proposed schedule for fees takes into consideration many factors, including:

- (a) the initial concerns of the firearm owners;
- (b) protection of small business from unnecessarily high costs; and
- (a) the need to cover administration cost.

5.3 Option 2 is not the preferred option as it would delay the consultation process and tabling of the Regulations. Minor amendments may be required after consultation.

Released under Right to Information



## 6. ANNEX STATEMENTS

- 6.1 Financial Impact Statement
- 6.2 Economic and Employment Impact Statement
- 6.3 Family Impact Statement
- 6.4 Legislative Impact Statement
- 6.5 Intergovernmental Relations Statement
- 6.6 Public Impact Statement
- 6.7 Other Attachments
  - 6.7.1 Expected Revenue
  - 6.7.2 Schedule of Fees
- 6.8 Consultation Statement

JOHN BESWICK

JOHN BESWICK  
MINISTER FOR POLICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

September 1996

Released under Right to Information

# ANNEX STATEMENTS

## 6.1 FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT

6.1.1 IMPACT ON AGENCY - DEPARTMENT OF POLICE  
AND PUBLIC SAFETY

### A. CONSOLIDATED FUND

	This Year 1996-97 \$'000	Year 1 1997-98 \$'000	Year 2 1998-99 \$'000	Year 3 1999-2000 \$'000
<b>Additional Expenditure</b>				
<i>Program:</i>				
Salaries	579	748	684	684
Recurrent Non-Salary	449	401	403	413
Building Construction Program	-	-	-	-
Other Capital	-	-	-	-
(1)	1,078	1,149	1,087	1,097
<b>Reduced Expenditure</b>				
<i>Program:</i>				
Salaries	-	-	-	-
Recurrent Non-Salary	-	-	-	-
Building Construction Program	-	-	-	-
Other Capital	-	-	-	-
(2)	-	-	-	-
<b>Net Expenditure Effect</b>				
(1) - (2) = (3)	1,078	1,149	1,087	1,097
<b>Additional Receipts</b>				
<i>Item: (4)</i>	2,079	236	236	265
<b>Reduced Receipts</b>				
<i>Item: (5)</i>	-	-	-	-
<b>Net Revenue Effect</b>				
(4) - (5) = (6)	2,079	236	236	265
<b>Aggregate Cost (Benefit)</b>				
(3) - (6)	-1,001	236	236	265

EXPLANATION: The following expenditure impact is estimated to complete 5 year cycle:

	Expenditure	Revenue
2000-2001	1,097	236
2001-2002	1,282	3,508

B. SPECIAL DEPOSITS AND TRUST FUND OR  
STATUTORY AUTHORITY FUNDS

Details: Nil

6.1.2 IMPACT ON OTHER AGENCIES

Details: Nil

Released under Right to Information

**6.2 ECONOMIC AND EMPLOYMENT IMPACT STATEMENT**

6.2.1 Employment will increase in Department, through temporary and casual employment. During the first 12 months, employment will increase through employment of data entry operators working shift work and other staff involved in registration, licensing, "Help Desk", mobile police stations. This will reduce after implementation.

**6.3 FAMILY IMPACT STATEMENT**

6.3.1 No direct family impact.

**6.4 LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY IMPACT STATEMENT**

6.4.1 Firearms Regulations will need to incorporate licence and registration fees.

**6.5 INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS STATEMENT**

6.5.1 No impact envisaged on intergovernmental relations.

**6.6 PUBLIC IMPACT STATEMENT**

6.6.1 The minimal financial impact on the general public will be offset by the increase in the community safety.

**6.7 OTHER ATTACHMENTS**

- 6.7.1 Expected Revenue
- 6.7.2 Fee Schedule.

**6.8 CONSULTATION STATEMENT**

Details: Nil

Released under Right to Information

**EXPECTED REVENUE:**

	Duration	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/2000	2000/01	2001/02	Total
<b>Licences</b>								
Category A, B, C & H	5 yrs	70,000	70,000	70,000	70,000	70,000	1,890,000	2,240,000
Category A, B, C & H	3 yrs	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	1,500,000	1,750,000
Category C	1 yr	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	60,000
Category D	1 yr	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	24,000
Firearms Dealers	3 yrs	30,000	0	0	0	0	0	60,000
Firearms Museum	1 yrs	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	6,000
Firearms Heirloom	5 yrs	2,000	100	100	100	100	2,100	4,500
<b>Permits</b>								
Permit to Acquire	-	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	600,000
<b>Registrations</b>								
One Firearm	-	570,000	-	-	-	-	-	570,000
Additional Firearms	-	1,237,000	-	-	-	-	-	1,237,000
<b>Approvals</b>								
Galleries, Ranges	-	5,000	500	500	500	500	500	0
Clubs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,500
<b>Agents</b>								
Agent Fees	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
<b>Total</b>		2,079,000	235,600	235,600	265,600	235,600	3,507,600	6,559,000

Released under Right to Information Act

# DEPARTMENT OF PREMIER AND CABINET

## CABINET SYNOPSIS

Cabinet Minute No: 181

**TITLE: FIREARMS REGISTRATION AND LICENSING**

### COMMENT:

- This Minute deals with funding for the registration and licensing of firearms and fees to be charged. The latter issue is difficult because fees may be used as an excuse by gun owners not to register their firearms and to criticise the Firearms Legislation.
- Hence, the proposed fees have been set at a level to encourage gun owners to comply with the legislation whilst ensuring costs are recovered over a five year period. In addition, to minimise criticism and maximise compliance, a commitment was made to not charge a licence fee for present licence holders, but they will still have to pay a gun registration fee (Attachment 6.7.4).
- Considering the above, the preferred option - establishing a registration fee on firearms and firearms dealers and a fee for new licence applications - has set fees at an appropriate level.
- However, to further bolster the chances of compliance, a six month moratorium on fees for registration could be adopted by Cabinet. It is calculated that revenue under this option would be reduced from \$1.685 million to \$420,000.
- The Commonwealth is expected, but not yet committed, to provide \$2.5 million in funds to assist in the setting up of the registration, licensing and buy back administration.
- The recent Commonwealth budget states clearly that funds will be made available for gun control and registration but does not indicate an amount. Considering the high profile the Prime Minister gives to this issue, it is highly unlikely that the Commonwealth will not come through with the promised funds.

### Recommended Approach:

That Cabinet support the recommendations.

  
S P Haines  
SECRETARY

21 August 1996



# SYNOPSIS

## Department of Treasury and Finance

### CABINET MINUTE FOR SYNOPSIS

---

Minute No: 181

Title: FIREARMS REGISTRATION AND LICENSING

Minister(s): Mr Beswick

Listed for Cabinet Meeting of 26 August 1996

---

Date Forwarded: 14 August 1996

Synopsis requested for lodgement with Cabinet Office by:

CLOSE OF BUSINESS WEDNESDAY 21 AUGUST 1996

---

Agencies from which comment sought:

No other agencies consulted due to lateness of Submission

Released under Right to Information



Department of Treasury and Finance

Contact: [redacted]  
Phone: 6517  
Our Ref: C/020305



Cabinet Secretariat Officer  
Cabinet Office  
DEPARTMENT OF PREMIER AND CABINET

23 AUG 1996

**CABINET SYNOPSIS**

Cabinet Minute No: 181

**TITLE:** FIREARMS REGISTRATION AND LICENSING

**COMMENT:**

- The purpose of this Minute is to obtain approval from Cabinet for firearm registration and licence fees, together with funding for the Department of Police and Public Safety associated with the establishment and continuation of the firearm registration and licensing system.
- Firearms legislation has now passed both Houses of Parliament in Tasmania. As a result of the legislation, the present guns licensing system in Tasmania will have to be substantially altered and "reinvented". The current licensing system only provides for a guns licence and not other licensing and registration requirements.
- The new firearms legislation requires firearms registration, firearms licensing for particular categories of firearms, surrendering illegal firearms and involvement of firearms dealers for all firearm transactions. The responsibility for firearms licensing lies with the Department of Police and Public Safety.
- There are currently 57 000 licence holders under the Guns Act but there are no records on the firearms held by the licence holders. The Department of Police and Public Safety estimate there are approximately 300 000 firearms in Tasmania.

Released Under Right to Information





- It is proposed that there would be a:
  - registration fee for firearms (\$10 for one firearm);
  - registration fee for firearms dealers (\$200); and
  - fee for new licence applications (\$70 for five years or \$50 for three years).

People currently holding licences would be exempt from applying for a new licence under this proposal.

- The total implementation costs of a firearms registration and licensing and revenue from licences are estimated by the Department of Police and Public Safety to be:

Year	Expenditure \$'000	Revenue \$'000
1996-97	3 629	1 195
1997-98	1 148	590
1998-99	1 087	590
1999-2000	1 096	670

- Based on current information from the Commonwealth, the Department has assumed that the Commonwealth will assist Tasmania to set up the registration, licensing and buy back administration with funding of \$2.5 million during 1996-97. If this funding is provided it will mean that the estimated expenditure for 1996-97 will be \$1.13 million.

- [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]

- It is proposed that Treasury and the Department of Police and Public Safety provide Budget Committee, at its next meeting in September 1996, with detailed costings for the implementation of the system and the fees to be charged.

**Recommendation**

It is recommended that Cabinet agree to:

- the implementation of a firearms registration and licensing system as a result of the *Firearms Act 1996*; and
- Treasury, in consultation with the Department of Police and Public Safety, providing Budget Committee, at its meeting in September 1996, with a report detailing the implementation costs and the level of fees to be charged.



for Philip Mussared  
**ACTING SECRETARY**

cc: Department of Police and Public Safety

Released under Right to Information

Fax from :



Minister for Police and Public Safety

14 AUG 1996

*Doney - Has  
this been looked  
at by Treasury*

Head of Office  
PREMIER'S OFFICE

I refer to the attached Cabinet Minute on Firearms Registration and Licensing.

My Minister believes this is an urgent measure and has asked that the Premier waive the Ten Day Rule to allow the Minute to be considered on Monday, 26 August 1996.

Your assistance in getting this approval would be appreciated.

*John Chilcott*  
(John Chilcott)  
SENIOR PRIVATE SECRETARY

Released under Right to Information

**APPROVED**

*[Signature]*

6th Floor, T.G.I.O. Building, 144 Macquarie Street, HOBART 7000  
Telephone: (002) 33 6725 Fax: (002) 34 7361



DEPARTMENT OF PREMIER AND CABINET  
 CABINET OFFICE  
 DECISION

26 August 1996

MINISTER FOR POLICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY  
 TREASURER

FIREARMS REGISTRATION AND LICENSING

Cabinet today:

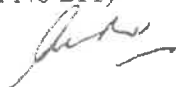
1. approved funding, subject to Commonwealth assistance of \$2.5 million in 1996/97, for the Department of Police and Public Safety in relation to firearms registration and licensing for:
 

1996-1997	\$1.128 million
1997-1998	\$1.109 million
1998-1999	\$1.087 million
1999-2000	\$1.097 million
2000-2001	\$1.097 million
2001-2002	\$1.282 million
2. approved the application of fees on registration of firearms, permits to purchase, dealers' fees and a licence application fee;
3. approved exemptions for present gun licence holders for licence fees for their first licence;
4. subject to the Commonwealth funding for firearms registration administration:
  - (a) approved the Regulation of a fee (with annual CPI adjustments) on firearms registration, firearm dealers and permits to purchase as per Attachment to this Decision; and
  - (b) approved a fee for firearms licence applications (with annual CPI adjustments) of five years, with an exemption for present gun licence holders for the first firearm licence under *Firearms Act 1994* as per Attachment to this Decision;
5. noted the firearms registration and licence system will be cost-neutral by the fifth year (2001-2002); and

COPY

6. agreed that the Department of Treasury and Finance, in consultation with the Department of Police and Public Safety, is to provide to Budget Committee at its September 1996 meeting a report detailing the implementation costs and the level of fees to be charged.

(Decision No 211)



(Minute No 181)

  
S P Haines  
SECRETARY

Copy to:

Secretary, Department of Police and Public Safety  
Secretary, Department of Treasury and Finance

Released Under Right to Information

## SCHEDULE OF FEES

**COPY**

The following is schedule of fees in relation to registration of firearms:-

1 Firearm	\$10 per firearm
Each additional Firearm	\$5 per firearm
Collectors	\$50
Dealers' Registration	\$200 per annum
Permit to Purchase	\$5 each Permit

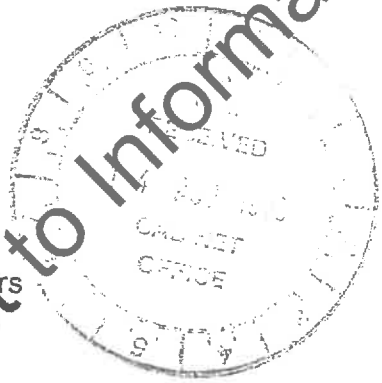
The following is a schedule of fees in relation to licence fees:-

New Licence Applications:	\$70 for five years
Licence Renewal (including previous licence holders)	OR \$50 for three years
Licence Variations/Losses (during licence period)	\$10

Released under Right to Information

CABINET

Minister	THE HON JOHN BESWICK MINISTER FOR POLICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY																					
Title	<b>FIREARMS REGISTRATION AND LICENSING</b>																					
Purpose	To obtain approval for funding and fees for registration and licensing.																					
Date	14 August 1996																					
Relation to Existing Policy	Firearms Act 1996																					
Likely Criticism	Shooters Lobby and Gun Owners																					
Priority and Timing	Decision required urgently to establish procedures and advise applicants.																					
Consultation	Department of Treasury and Finance Department of Premier and Cabinet																					
Financial Impact	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Expenditure</th> <th>Revenue</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1996-97</td> <td>\$1.129 Million</td> <td>\$1.975 Million</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1997-98</td> <td>\$1.149 Million</td> <td>\$0.590 Million</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1998-99</td> <td>\$1.087 Million</td> <td>\$0.590 Million</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1999-2000</td> <td>\$1.097 Million</td> <td>\$0.670 Million</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2000-2001</td> <td>\$1.097 Million</td> <td>\$0.670 Million</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2001-2002</td> <td>\$1.282 Million</td> <td>\$4.060 Million</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Expenditure	Revenue	1996-97	\$1.129 Million	\$1.975 Million	1997-98	\$1.149 Million	\$0.590 Million	1998-99	\$1.087 Million	\$0.590 Million	1999-2000	\$1.097 Million	\$0.670 Million	2000-2001	\$1.097 Million	\$0.670 Million	2001-2002	\$1.282 Million	\$4.060 Million
	Expenditure	Revenue																				
1996-97	\$1.129 Million	\$1.975 Million																				
1997-98	\$1.149 Million	\$0.590 Million																				
1998-99	\$1.087 Million	\$0.590 Million																				
1999-2000	\$1.097 Million	\$0.670 Million																				
2000-2001	\$1.097 Million	\$0.670 Million																				
2001-2002	\$1.282 Million	\$4.060 Million																				
Announcement of Decision	The registration and licence fees should be announced prior to Regulations being tabled.																					
Action required before Announcement	Processes need to be established within Department to include fee collection.																					



Released under Right to Information

## 1. PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this Minute is to obtain approval for:

- (a) funding for the firearms registration and licensing requirements as a result of the Firearms Act 1996;
- (b) firearm registration and licence fees to be included in a Schedule to Regulations.

## 2. RECOMMENDATION

I RECOMMEND that Cabinet:

2.1 Approve funding, subject to Commonwealth assistance of \$2.5 Million in 1996/97, for the Department of Police and Public Safety in relation to the firearms registration and licensing for:

1996-97	\$1.129 Million
1997-98	\$1.149 Million
1998-99	\$1.087 Million
1999-2000	\$1.097 Million
2000-2001	\$1.097 Million
2001-2002	\$1.282 Million

- 2.2 Approve the application of fees on registration of firearms, permits to purchase, dealers fees and a licence application fee.
- 2.3 Approve exemptions for present gun licence holders for licence fees for their first licence.

Subject to the Commonwealth funding for firearms registration administration:

- (i) approve the Regulation of a fee (with annual CPI adjustments) on firearms registration, firearm dealers and permits to purchase as per Attachment 6.7.4;
  - (ii) approve a fee for firearms licence applications (with annual CPI adjustments) of five years, with an exemption for present gun licence holders for the first firearm licence under Firearms Act 1996 as per Attachment 6.7.4.
- 2.3 Note the firearms registration and licence system will be cost-neutral by the fifth year (2001-2002).



### 3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In accordance with Australasian Police Ministers' Council, Firearms legislation has been formulated in Tasmania. This legislation involves firearms registration, firearms licensing for particular categories, surrendering illegal firearms and specific involvement of dealers for all firearms transactions. Consistent with all other jurisdictions, the responsibility for firearms licences and firearms legislation is with the Department of Police and Public Safety.
- 3.2 The present guns licensing system in Tasmania will have to be re-invented. The present requirement simply relates to gaining approval for a guns licence and not complex licensing and registration.
- 3.3 The present establishment of the Guns Licensing Section in the Department consists of four (4) personnel. The present simplified Guns Act required 10 - 15 persons during the implementation stages in 1991-92.
- 3.4 There are presently 57,000 licence holders under the Guns Act. There are no records maintained, or required to be held, on firearms held by these licence holders. It is estimated that the numbers of licence holders under the new legislation will not vary significantly from the 57,000. Although there have been estimates of upto 2 million firearms in Tasmania (from areas such as the gun lobby), it is estimated that the likely number is 300,000.
- 3.5 Initial indications from the Commonwealth were that, in addition to compensation for surrender of firearms, it would fund implementation of National Systems through National Exchange of Police Information (NEPI). The Commonwealth would also fund access to stations, not presently linked to NEPI systems. In the latest agreement between Police Ministers, the Commonwealth indicated its willingness to now assist in funding for registration. No details have been finalised on Commonwealth funds supplementation, however, initial indications are funding of \$2.5M will be provided.
- 3.6 Whatever the final negotiations with the Commonwealth, it is evident States will be required to partially fund establishment costs and full on-going recurrent expenditure in future years.

### 4. ISSUES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 Any charges may be used as a reason for gun owners not to register their firearms. Therefore, during introduction of the Firearms Legislation, a commitment was made to not charge a licence fee for present licence holders.

- 4.2 Any cost involved in licence and registration fees will need to be minimal to avoid criticism and non-registration. Support from the Commonwealth in establishment costs in the first year will reduce the amount of fees, however, recurrent expenditure in future years needs to be covered.
- 4.3 Amendments have been proposed by the Legislative Council that no registration fees or licence fees be included in legislation. This needs to be considered having regard to the balance between costing implications and objectives of attracting registration and licencing of firearms.
- 4.4 It will be essential that a customer service focus is applied to ensure as many registrations occur as possible. The use of mobile police stations travelling to remote localities on advertised days and hire of halls in other areas will be one strategy to ensure the objectives of the legislation are realised. This has additional staffing and cost implications that have been included in costings.

## 5. OPTIONS

- 5.1 In considering options, the total costs over five years will need to be taken into account. These costs are provided at Attachment 6.7.1. At this time the Commonwealth has indicated its preparedness to pay direct establishment of NEPI systems, on-line access costs and partial registration administration costs for 1996/97.
- 5.2 It is assumed the Commonwealth will not reimburse:
- (a) all costs for registration systems, and
  - (b) on-going costs for registration and NEPI.

Present indications are that the Commonwealth will assist Tasmania with costs of \$0.315 M for NEPI and on line access and \$2.185 M for setting up the registration, licencing and buy back administration.

- 5.3 In addition to these costs, the Department will have "absorbed" costs. These costs involve action required from present police officers and staff in present Firearms Section. These costs are \$493,000 in 1996-97 and \$203,000 thereafter are detailed at Attachment 6.7.1.
- 5.4 The following five year costs are estimated for Tasmania (refer Attachment 6.7.1):-

1996/97	\$1.129M
1997/98	\$1.149M

1998/99	\$1.087M
1999/2000	\$1.097M
2000/2001	\$1.097M
2001/2002	\$1.283M.

5.5 The options are:

Option 1:	Establish a registration fee on firearms and firearms dealers, and fee for new licence applications.
Option 2:	Establish a fee for licence applications only.
Option 3:	No registration or licence fee - approve additional funding.

5.6 In considering the preferred option, action in other States was taken into account. The following summarises States which were able to be contacted:

South Australia:	Fees have been previously established by means of a schedule in Firearms Regulations with different fees set for firearms categories (\$29.25 pa) and dealers (\$217 pa).
Victoria:	Presently has a \$90 gun permit fee for six years. Revised legislation included fees, however, was abandoned and fees will now be included in Regulation. Discussions revealed a possible increase to \$60 licence fee for three years as an option.
New South Wales:	Previously a \$75 licence fee, plus a \$70 training fee, was involved. In introducing the new legislation in New South Wales, the Minister indicated in his Second Reading speech that no charges would apply for the first 12 months. This would be an incentive to register, however, it is envisaged after 12 months that a schedule of fees would apply by way of Regulation.

5.7 Option 1 is preferred as it allows the commitment to previous licence holders to be maintained, however, these need to be amounts that do not discourage firearms registration or licencing. The recommended rates to be established by Regulation (with an annual CPI index) are detailed at Attachment 6.7.4.

- 5.8 Implementation of a registration fee would result in revenue of \$1.685 M. A six month moratorium on fees for registration would result in revenue being reduced to \$420,000 in 1996/97, however the advantage would be the incentive to register in the first six months.
- 5.9 Option 2 could apply to new licence applicants, with an exemption for licence holders under the present Guns Act for their first 5 year licence. The commitment to exempt present licence holders will limit revenue for the first five years, until 2001-2002. These fees could be regulated by a schedule in Regulations, with an exemption for those with a present gun licence.

A schedule of fees (with CPI adjustments each year) is suggested to be:

New Licence Applications:	\$70 for five years
Licence Renewal (including previous licence holders)	OR \$50 for three years
Licence Variations/Losses (during licence period)	\$10

- 5.10 On this basis, on projected figures, the costs of administering the registration scheme would be reimbursed after five years, for the first five years and thereafter. The full details on the above revenue calculations are at Attachment 6.7.2.

- 5.11 The calculations on the preferred option at Attachment 6.7.2 make the scheme viable over five years and thereafter. In addition, consideration needs to be given to the advantages and disadvantages of the options proposed (Attachment 6.7.3).

- 5.12 Option 2 is not preferred as only minimal cost recovery would occur in the first 5 years. In addition, the government has committed to exempting present licence holders from licence fee charges within the new Firearms legislation. Option 3 would result in a cost of \$3.629 M having to be absorbed in 1996/97 and approx \$1.1 M each year thereafter

## 6. ANNEX STATEMENTS

- 6.1 Financial Impact Statement
- 6.2 Economic and Employment Impact Statement
- 6.3 Family Impact Statement
- 6.4 Legislative Impact Statement

6.5 Intergovernmental Relations Statement

6.6 Public Impact Statement

6.7 Other Attachments

6.7.1 Detailed Expenditure Costings

6.7.2 Detailed Revenue Costings

6.7.3 Advantages and Disadvantages of Options

6.7.4 Schedule of Fees

6.8 Consultation Statement



**JOHN BESWICK**  
**MINISTER FOR POLICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY**

14 August 1996

Released under Right to Information

**ANNEX STATEMENTS**

**6.1 FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**6.1.1 IMPACT ON AGENCY - DEPARTMENT OF POLICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY**

**A. CONSOLIDATED FUND**

	<b>This Year 1996-97 \$'000</b>	<b>Year 1 1997-98 \$'000</b>	<b>Year 2 1998-99 \$'000</b>	<b>Year 3 1999-2000 \$'000</b>
<b>Additional Expenditure</b>				
<i>Program:</i>				
Salaries	579	748	684	684
Recurrent Non-Salary	550	401	403	413
Building Construction Program	-	-	-	-
Other Capital	-	-	-	-
<b>(1)</b>	<b>1,129</b>	<b>1,149</b>	<b>1,087</b>	<b>1,097</b>
<b>Reduced Expenditure</b>				
<i>Program:</i>				
Salaries	-	-	-	-
Recurrent Non-Salary	-	-	-	-
Building Construction Program	-	-	-	-
Other Capital	-	-	-	-
<b>(2)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net Expenditure Effect</b> <b>(1) - (2) = (3)</b>	<b>1,129</b>	<b>1,149</b>	<b>1,087</b>	<b>1,097</b>
<b>Additional Receipts</b>				
<i>Item: (4)</i>	1,975	590	590	670
<b>Reduced Receipts</b> <i>Item: (5)</i>	-	-	-	-
<b>Net Revenue Effect</b> <b>(4) - (5) = (6)</b>	<b>1,975</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>670</b>
<b>Aggregate Cost (Benefit)</b> <b>(3) - (6)</b>	<b>-846</b>	<b>559</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>427</b>

**EXPLANATION:** The following expenditure impact is estimated to complete 5 year cycle:

	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Revenue</b>
2000-2001	1,097	670
2001-2002	1,282	4,060

**ANNEX STATEMENTS**

**B. SPECIAL DEPOSITS AND TRUST FUND OR STATUTORY  
AUTHORITY FUNDS**

**Details: Nil**

**6.1.2 IMPACT ON OTHER AGENCIES**

**Details: Nil**

Released under Right to Information

## **ANNEX STATEMENTS**

### **6.2 ECONOMIC AND EMPLOYMENT IMPACT STATEMENT**

- 6.2.1 Employment will increase in Department, through temporary and casual employment. During the first 12 months, employment will increase through employment of data entry operators working shift work and other staff involved in registration, licensing, "Help Desk", mobile police stations. This will reduce after implementation.

### **6.3 FAMILY IMPACT STATEMENT**

- 6.3.1 No direct family impact.

### **6.4 LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY IMPACT STATEMENT**

- 6.4.1 Firearms Regulations will need to incorporate licence and registration fees.

### **6.5 INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS STATEMENT**

- 6.5.1 No impact envisaged on intergovernmental relations.

### **6.6 PUBLIC IMPACT STATEMENT**

- 6.6.1 No direct public impact as a result of funding, other than to ensure owners required to pay fees for licence and registration.

### **6.7 OTHER ATTACHMENTS**

- 6.7.1 Detailed Expenditure Costings  
6.7.2 Detailed Revenue Costings  
6.7.3 Advantages and Disadvantages of Options  
6.7.4 Schedule of Fees.

Released under Right to Information



## **ANNEX STATEMENTS**

### **6.8 CONSULTATION STATEMENT**

- 6.8.1 The Department of Treasury and Finance have been provided with a copy of the Minute. The initial comment is that they wish to examine the figures in greater detail and a meeting is being arranged to examine these figures.
- 6.8.2 The Department of Premier and Cabinet have commented and support the Minute. Minor changes have been included.

Released under Right to Information

**FIREARMS REGISTRATION  
- ESTIMATED COSTS**

**1. TOTAL COSTS**

The following costs are detailed in the attached spreadsheets:

	<b>Total Additional Costs</b>	<b>NEPI &amp; On- Line Access Costs. (C'wealth Assistance)</b>	<b>Setting-Up Registration system (C'wealth Assistance)</b>	<b>Tasmanian Costs</b>
1996-97	\$3.629 Million	\$0.315 Million	\$2.185 Million	\$1.129 Million
1997-98	\$1.149 Million	Nil	Nil	\$1.149 Million
1998-99	\$1.087 Million	Nil	Nil	\$1.087 Million
1999-2000	\$1.097 Million	Nil	Nil	\$1.097 Million
2000-2001	\$1.097 Million	Nil	Nil	\$1.097 Million
2001-2002	\$1.283 Million	Nil	Nil	\$1.283 Million
	<b>\$9.342 Million</b>	<b>\$0.315 Million</b>	<b>\$2.185 Million</b>	<b>\$6.842 Million</b>

In addition, the following costs will be absorbed by the Department:-

	<b>Direct Costs</b>
	\$
1996-97	493,007
1997-98	203,275
1998-99	203,275
1999-2000	203,275
2000-2001	203,275
2001-2002	203,275

These costs are likely to be reduced by Commonwealth Government contributions to NEPI, on-line access costs estimated at \$315,000 and assistance with establishment (assumed at \$2,185,000). Therefore, the total Commonwealth assistance is assumed to be \$2.5M in 1996/97 only.

In calculating these costs the following assumptions have been made:

- Commonwealth will fund buy-back compensation.
- Present licence holders will not be charged for new licences.
- Licences will be reissued after five (5) years.
- The four (4) present firearms staff will be absorbed and the costings are additional to these.
- Police will be proactive in relation to prohibited firearms (direct costs only) and these costs will be absorbed despite workload and policy roles.
- There will be 57,000 licence holders and 300,000 firearms in Tasmania.
- The original application data, presently held, will be reused and limit re-keying for licence purposes.

## 2. SALARY COSTS

Initially, Project Management and adjudication will be required from police in the Firearms Registry. The ongoing management will be taken over by a State Sergeant from 1997-98.

A Help Desk will be required for the first 12 months only and then be absorbed into the ongoing registration costs. Also refer to 12 below.

Ongoing registration will require personnel in a central Firearms Registry with officers outposted to key District locations (Launceston, Burnie, Hobart/Glenorchy, Hobart, Devonport, Kingston and Bellerive). In addition, additional resources will be required in the Information Bureau (3) and to staff the mobile police stations during initial implementation.

There is also the need for a "consultant" for four months at Level 12 to co-ordinate NEPI, local systems integration, training, etc, (included in Systems Development costs).

The Senior Solicitor's direct costs will be absorbed but have involved one month full-time (1/12 x \$55,000). In addition, costs of a legal representative to work with the project team will be required in view of the anticipated challenges which will occur.

Police resources within the Districts will be required in:

- Decision-making;
- Proactively inspecting for banned firearms;
- Examining needs basis for firearms.

These will take up Police resources. A central policy role will be involved, however, will be the primary responsibility of the Project Manager, Firearms Registry.

### 3. NATIONAL EXCHANGE OF POLICE INFORMATION (NEPI)

The costs involved in establishing a national system and link to the National Names Index and National Automatic Fingerprint Information System (NAFIS) will be provided by the Commonwealth. This will involve on-line access, a "trickle-feed process" and technical systems. The initial cost estimates supplied to the Commonwealth were \$1.35 Million Australia-wide. Further submissions are being made by NEPI, with costs for the new national NEPI linkages costing up to \$3.338 Million nationally.

The costs to Tasmania are additional to these national requirements. Local systems will need to be compatible with national systems.

### 4. LEGISLATION

The amending legislation will involve a fee-for-service from Parliamentary Counsel for drafting. This figure is based on the hours involved as billed by Parliamentary Counsel.

The actual cost was minimised by the involvement of the Senior Solicitor for the Department.

### 5. COMPUTERS (PCS AND PRINTERS)

These costs are based on leasing computers and printers. Initially, there will be a requirement for 20 PCs with full set-up costs of \$5,000 (leasing of \$90 per quarter per \$1,000). These leasing costs will reduce after the first year, with a staff reduction, and have been minimised by shift arrangements.

The printer costs were based on 4 x high-quality printers at \$5,000 plus 3 x desktop printers (at the same leasing costs).

### 6. COMPUTER NETWORK

Networking costs are estimates based on the need to establish LANs and link to the WAN from various sites.

There is a requirement to roll-out the network to isolated stations, which has not occurred in Tasmania. The registration of firearms in country areas places a higher need in these areas where firearms owners will expect to be able to register their firearms. The cost is \$6,000 for

implementation and \$3,000 per annum for communications in these isolated areas to make the necessary links. The Commonwealth have indicated they are prepared to fund this specific cost as part of the \$2.5M assistance package.

## **7. SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT**

The majority of systems development costs are incorporated in salaries. They are based on estimates of undertaking programming to apply to Tasmanian legislation and a requirement to build and test databases for update of national information. This is likely to require external consultancy (5 x \$1,000 per day). In addition, ongoing maintenance and support will be required based on part-time support from a consultant or internal resources.

This capability will streamline procedures for dealers to maintain inventory records and comply with reporting requirements. The Dealers Registration fee does not cover any on-line facility that may occur in the long term.

Consultant required for four months to co-ordinate the initial implementation.

## **8. LICENCE FEES**

The introduction of a five-year licence will result in a complete change to the present system. Purchase of a computer-based photo licensing system, cameras in key stations and the compatible systems and equipment will streamline the process for approval to acquire, purchase, and registration.

The licence photographs are \$5 per photograph x 60,000 plus losses of \$1,000 per year (estimate). This compares favourably with an outsourcing quotation of \$7.25 per unit.

## **9. ACCOMMODATION**

The accommodation for the Firearms Registry will require access to the public and ideally be a "shop-front" arrangement, particularly for surrender and return of firearms. The accommodation costs are based on an estimate of leasing costs.

It is envisaged at this stage that the Hobart Police Station will be used, however, sections using these areas will have to be relocated to the Administration Building (Third Floor). This is based on Tourism rent, plus minimal costs for partitioning.

There are also costs in the first year associated with hire of facilities in country areas during the initial stages.

**10. TRAINING**

Training costs for police and Firearms Registry staff have been based on a share between absorbed and incremental costs.

Incremental costs will involve systems training, procedural training, legislation training. There will be costs associated with travel, providers, etc.

This estimate assumes safety training for firearms owners will be self-funded by owners.

**11. FURNITURE AND STORAGE**

Ergonomic furniture and storage will need to be purchased as no surplus exists within the Department.

**12. CLEANING**

Cleaning for the extra accommodation will be required, particularly now Departments are responsible for these costs.

**13. AUDIT**

An external audit in relation to the buy-back will be required, including destruction, moneys, etc. Audit will also be required in relation to the firearms registration and licence fees, and these facilities are not available in the Department.

**14. SECURITY**

Security will need to be incorporated into costs, either for specific security related to a new location or alterations to present arrangements.

**15. POSTAGE**

Contact will have to be made with 57,000 licence holders in relation to:

- - initial mail-out;
- - reply-paid envelopes;
- - advice to attend;

Released under Right to Information

- - complete process.

Therefore, the estimates in the first year will be significant. These will again increase in the fifth year when licences will be renewed.

#### 16. PRINTING

Documentation will be required for relevant proforma. In terms of reissue to present 57,000 licence holders and an estimated 300,000 firearms, and for recording transactions for every time a purchase or sale is made, the cost of forms will be significant.

#### 17. PUBLICITY

Advertisements when the legislation is effective will be a significant component of letting the public know its obligations. There will be an initial cost, and reduced ongoing costs, with renewed advertising again after five years.

The Commonwealth will provide a national campaign which will focus on the reasons behind the need for firearms legislation. Each State will need to undertake a local campaign in relation to facts about local arrangements, details on legislation, enquiry numbers, pamphlets and post outs. Tenders for the local campaign have been called with costs varying from \$250,000 to \$600,000. The estimate for an effective campaign is \$400,000.

#### 18. TELEPHONES

Installation of telephones for 20 persons plus a high volume in the first year.

#### 19. CONSUMABLES

Normal consumables with initial set-up costs based on \$1,500 per person.

#### 20. TRAVEL

Intrastate and interstate travel (NEPI) will be required, particularly during the initial stages.

Mobile police stations will have to be staffed with overnight travel costs being incurred.

**21. (i) BUY-BACK - OUTSOURCING**

The preferred approach is to handle the surrender and compensation process (returns, collection, storage, disposal, valuation and compensation notification) through an outside Agency (eg, Commonwealth Department of Administrative Services).

The estimate of costs will be of the order of \$400,000 - \$500,000. This will be tendered in the week ending 16 August 1996 and more accurate costings will be available at that time.

**(ii) INTERNAL PROCEDURES - BUY-BACK**

Staff within the Department will need to be established to handle payments and ensure liaison with the Commonwealth for reimbursement.

Finance Section will also be involved with Financial Statements, etc, but these costs will be absorbed.

Released under Right to Information



FIREARMS COSTS				
	96/97	97/98	98/99	99/2000
<b>REGISTRATION</b>				
Salary & Related				
Legal	30,000	0	0	0
Mgt	45,410	45,410	45,410	45,410
System	137,300	60,048	60,048	60,048
Licence Process	182,749	124,714	124,714	124,714
Registration	538,587	433,982	435,337	435,337
Help Desk	111,810	58,035	26,683	26,683
Legislation	12,000	0	0	0
Computers	43,000	28,400	28,400	28,400
Travel	7,000	4,000	2,000	2,000
Licence Fee	360,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Consumables	25,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
Accommodation	250,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
Training	40,000	7,000	7,000	7,000
Furniture & Storage	30,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Cleaning	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Audit	10,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Security	10,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Postage	100,000	40,000	40,000	40,000
Printing & Publishing	60,000	20,000	20,000	30,000
Telephones	10,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
Publicity	400,000	0	0	0
Data Entry Hire	350,000	0	0	0
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>2,757,856</b>	<b>1,011,589</b>	<b>979,772</b>	<b>989,592</b>
<b>ON-LINE ACCESS</b>				
Implementation	215,000	90,000	90,000	90,000
Maintenance	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000

<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	220,000	95,000	95,000	95,000
<b>NEPI SYSTEM</b>				
Travel	5,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
NEPI System	12,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Trickle Feed System	42,000	4,200	4,200	4,200
On Line System	36,000	3,600	3,600	3,600
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	95,000	11,800	11,800	11,800
<b>BUY BACK</b>				
Outsource	500,000	0	0	0
Internal Accounts	55,798	29,718	0	0
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	555,798	29,718	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	3,628,654	1,148,102	1,086,572	1,096,392

Information  
Released under FOIA

GUNS REGISTRATION - SALARY				
POSITION	DIRECT COSTS		INCREMENTAL COSTS	
	96/97	97/98	96/97	97/98
<b>Management</b>				88,899
1 x Inspector	59,000	0	0	0
1 x Project Mgr (Level 7)	0	0	38,000	38,000
Senior Solicitor	4,580	0	0	0
Police Officers	346,000	173,000	0	0
<b>Help Desk</b>				
1 x Sgt	0	0	48,000	0
1 x Level 3	0	0	26,085	0
1 x Level 2	0	0	22,480	22,480
<b>Systems Development</b>				
1 x Consultant Level 12	0	0	19,396	0
1 x Prof Level 2 (CSO)	0	0	80,500	40,250
1 x Prof Level 1(p/t)	0	0	15,000	10,000
<b>Ongoing Registration</b>				
3 x Level 3 (IB)	0	0	78,255	78,255
2 x Team Leaders Level 4	0	0	59,426	59,246
8 x Level 3 - reduce to 4	0	0	208,680	121,324
4 x Level 3 (District)	0	0	104,340	104,340
<b>Licence Process</b>				
1 x Level 4	0	0	29,713	29,713
3 x Level 3	0	0	78,255	52,170
2 x Level 2	0	0	44,960	22,480

<b>Buy Back Admin</b>								
1 x Level 4	0	0	29,713	29,713				
1 x Level 3	0	0	26,085	0				
Finance	10,000	0	0	0				
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>419,580</b>	<b>173,000</b>	<b>905,888</b>	<b>634,066</b>			<b>579,388</b>	
Superannuation (11%)	46,154	19,030	99,648	69,746			63,733	
Workers Comp (4%)	16,783	6,920	36,236	25,362			23,176	
Sal Incr (2.5%)	10,490	4,325	22,647	15,851			14,485	
Sal Incr (2%)	0	0	0	0			0	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>493,007</b>	<b>203,275</b>	<b>1,064,418</b>	<b>745,016</b>			<b>680,781</b>	

Released under Right of Information

## ANNEX STATEMENTS

## ATTACHMENT 6.7.2

Year	Cost Per Year \$ Million	Progressive Costs \$ Million	Notes	Revenue Per Year \$	Progressive Revenue \$
1996-97	1.129	1.129	1	1,975,000	1,975,000
1997-98	1.149	2.278	2	590,000	2,465,000
1998-99	1.087	3.166	3	590,000	3,055,000
1999-00	1.097	4.263	4	670,000	3,725,000
2000-01	1.097	5.360	4	670,000	4,395,000
2001-02	1.282	6.842	5	4,060,000	8,455,000

			\$
<b>Note 1:</b>	New - 5 Years	2,000 x \$70	140,000
	New - 3 Years	1,600 x \$50	80,000
	Variations - Licence	1,000 x \$10	10,000
	Dealers	300 x \$200	60,000
	Registration	57,000 x \$10	570,000
	Registration	243,000 x \$5	1,115,000
<b>Note 2:</b>	New - 5 Years	2,000 x \$70	140,000
	New - 3 Years	1,600 x \$50	80,000
	Variations	1,000 x \$10	10,000
	Permit to Purchase	20,000 x \$5	100,000
	Dealers	300 x \$200	60,000
	Registration (Average)	10,000 x \$20	200,000
<b>Note 3:</b>	New - 5 Years	2,000 x \$70	140,000
	New - 3 Years	1,600 x \$50	80,000
	Variations	1,000 x \$10	10,000
	Permit to Purchase	20,000 x \$5	100,000
	Dealers	300 x \$200	60,000
	Registration (Average)	10,000 x \$20	200,000
<b>Note 4:</b>	Renewal - 3 Years	1,600 x \$50	80,000
	New - 5 Years	2,000 x \$70	140,000
	New - 3 Years	1,600 x \$50	80,000
	Variations	1,000 x \$10	10,000
	Permit to Purchase	20,000 x \$5	100,000
	Dealers	300 x \$200	60,000
	Registration (Average)	10,000 x \$20	200,000
<b>Note 5:</b>	Renewal - 3 Years	1,600 x \$50	1,080,000
	Renewal - 5 Years	30,000 x \$70	2,100,000
	Renewal - 3 Years	1,600 x \$50	80,000
	New - 5 Years	2,000 x \$70	140,000
	New - 3 Years	1,600 x \$50	80,000
	Variations	1,000 x \$10	10,000
	Permit to Purchase	20,000 x \$5	100,000
	Dealers	300 x \$200	60,000
	Registration (Average)	300 x \$200	60,000

**ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES - OPTIONS****OPTION 1: ESTABLISH A REGISTRATION FEE ON FIREARMS AND DEALERS and for NEW LICENCE APPLICATIONS****ADVANTAGES**

- The cost for registration would be minimal for each firearm or group of firearms.
- The registration fee for dealers could be limited to \$200 per dealer.
- No costs for Government or the Department over 5 years and thereafter.

**DISADVANTAGES**

- Opposition from firearm owners who would see themselves paying for something they do not want.
- Additional administrative processes in collection of tax for every firearm.
- Difficulty in collecting tax for firearms that are already owned.
- Difficulty with present licence holders (57,000) who believed they have paid for a "licence for life".
- Cost may be a reason for not registering, therefore, in opposition to the objectives of registration.
- Commitment given for no cost on licences for present licence holders.

**OPTION 2: ESTABLISH A FEE FOR FIREARM LICENCE APPLICATIONS****ADVANTAGES**

- No cost for Government or Department.
- Licence fee of \$70 is likely to be consistent with Victoria.
- Pay for computer facilities for gun dealers and reduce process costs.

**DISADVANTAGES**

- Commitment given for no cost on licences for present licence holders.
- Once cost unit for multiple firearms holders.
- Higher cost (of \$70 per five years on the basis of 57,000 licence holders).
- Difficulty of present licence holders who believed they have paid for a "licence for life".
- Opposition from firearm owners who believe they are being forced by Government legislation.

**OPTION 3: NO REGISTRATION OR LICENCE FEE - APPROVE  
ADDITIONAL FUNDING**

**ADVANTAGES**

- Avoids (minimises) criticism from unions and firearm owners.
- Incentive to register.

**DISADVANTAGES**

- Cost of \$6 Million over five years would impact on other budget areas.
- Other licence owners must pay, eg, car, fishing, etc.

## SCHEDULE OF FEES

The following is schedule of fees in relation to registration of firearms:-

1 Firearm	\$10 per firearm
Each additional Firearm	\$5 per firearm
Collectors	\$50
Dealers' Registration	\$200 per annum
Permit to Purchase	\$5 each Permit

The following is a schedule of fees in relation to licence fees:-

New Licence Applications:	\$70 for five years
Licence Renewal (including previous licence holders)	OR \$50 for three years
Licence Variations/Losses (during licence period)	\$10

Released under Right to Information



## **ANNEX STATEMENTS**

### **6.8 CONSULTATION STATEMENT**

6.8.1 The Department of Treasury and Finance have been provided with a copy of the Minute. The initial comment is that they wish to examine the figures in greater detail and a meeting is being arranged to examine these figures.

6.8.2 The Department of Premier and Cabinet have commented and support the Minute. Minor changes have been included.

Released under Right to Information

THE HON JOHN BESWICK  
MINISTER FOR POLICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

**FIREARMS REGISTRATION AND LICENSING**

To obtain approval for funding and fees for registration and licensing.

14 August 1996

Firearms Act 1996

Shooters Lobby and Gun Owners

Decision required urgently to establish procedures and advise applicants.

Department of Treasury and Finance  
Department of Premier and Cabinet

	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Revenue</b>
1996-97	\$1.129 Million	\$1.975 Million
1997-98	\$1.149 Million	\$0.590 Million
1998-99	\$1.087 Million	\$0.590 Million
1999-2000	\$1.097 Million	\$0.670 Million
2000-2001	\$1.097 Million	\$0.670 Million
2001-2002	\$1.282 Million	\$4.060 Million

The registration and licence fees should be announced prior to Regulations being tabled.

Processes need to be established within Department to include fee collection.