

Perrich
RE TABLED
19/12/20


Explanatory Statement

Firearms Amendment Bill 2019

General Outline

The purpose of this Bill is to amend the Firearms Act 1997 and Firearm Regulations 1997 to enable a qualified person to establish a genuine recreational/training business for the use of 50 calibre firearm licenced under category D of the Firearms Act 1997 and for the establishment of a Category D range licence for the purposes of using 50 calibre firearms.

The Bill details criteria that must be met in order to gain a range licence and reporting requirements. Penalties apply if there are breaches in the Act.

Notes on Clauses

1. Short Title

This is a formal clause which provides for the citation of the Bill. The Bill, when passed, will be cited as the *Firearms Legislation Further Amendment Act 2019*

2. Commencement

This clause sets out how the amendment Act will be commenced. In this case, the amendment Act will commence on the day fixed by the Administrator by Gazette notice.

3. Act amended

Identifies the Firearms Act 1997 (NT) as the Act to which Part 2 of the Firearms Legislation Further Amendment Act 2019 applies

4. Interpretation

Allows the incorporation of Category D firearms range licence means a licence in force under Part 3, Division 12A, for the business of operating a category D firearms range for the purposes of training and recreational shooting.

5. Application for Licence

This contains what is required in an application for a category D firearms range licence. Currently, there are no ranges for private use that can accommodate a category D 50 calibre firearm. It is important that the application and criteria ensure safe working practices, and safe operational procedures on a long range firearm range. It is paramount importance to have identified risks and for proper and thorough risk assessment. Appropriate public liability insurance is one of the requirements.

6. Period of Licence

A new section to allow for a range licence of five year with renewals

7. Part 3 Division 12A

This covers what firearms are excluded – firearms less than 70 cm in length and capable of being concealed on or about the person and inoperable machine guns

Category firearm range licence requirements are detailed including what the range licence holder must do, responsibilities and how the firearm range must operate.

This section specifies that the use of category D firearms can include the use for recreational and training purposes.

Records must be kept as part of the firearm range licence along with details on employees, contractors and customers/clients.

NT Police have the ability to inspect records, take copies or extracts of records.

There are offences if a licenced firearm range holder does not produce documents on demand from a police officer. Maximum penalty: 20 penalty units or imprisonment for six months.

There are offences if a licenced firearm range holder does not provide documents at the end of the financial year to the Commissioner of Police. The records to include details on employees, firearm details and shooting events. Maximum penalty is 100 penalty points.

8 - 9 Regulations to be inserted

The Commissioner of Police must be satisfied that the premises proposed for the range are capable of being safely used for carrying on the business of operating a category D firearm range for the purposes of recreational or training.