

## COMBAT SPORTS AMENDMENT BILL 2024

### STATEMENT OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Tabled, by leave,

Haines

14 March 2024

Clerk of the Parliaments

#### **Need: Why is the policy needed based on factual evidence and stakeholder input?**

The Combat Sport Authority of NSW (the Authority) conducted an extensive review of the *Combat Sports Act 2013* and the *Combat Sports Regulation 2014* following the death of a combatant and the consequent Coronial findings.

The Authority made extensive recommendations to Government to improve the functioning of the regulatory framework and improve combatant safety. The proposed amendments acquit all Coronial recommendations apart from one which was not supported by the Authority.

The Authority produced two reports as part of the second phase of its review. Both of these reports was the subject of extensive stakeholder consultation and industry input.

#### **Objectives: What is the policy's objective couched in terms of the public interest?**

These amendments are necessary to minimise the risk to combatants of concussion and serious head injury arising from combat sports contests and to modernise the regulation of combat sports.

#### **Options: What alternative policies and mechanisms were considered in advance of the bill?**

During the second phase of the Authority's review multiple options were considered in relation to each of its recommendations. Each recommendation was assessed against options to weigh the pros and cons before providing recommendations to Government.

#### **Analysis: What were the pros/cons and benefits/costs of each option considered?**

The costs and benefits of options was considered by the Authority as part of the development of recommendations to Government.

#### **Pathway: What are the timetable and steps for the policy's rollout and who will administer it?**

The amendments will commence by proclamation and implementation of the recommendations is expected to occur in 2024-2025. The commencement and timing of reforms is dependent on development to the registration system.

The Combat Sports Authority of NSW regulates combat sports in accordance with the *Combat Sports Act 2013* (the Act), the *Combat Sports Regulation 2014* (the Regulation) and the rules made under section 107 of the Act (the Authority Rules).

#### **Consultation: Were the views of affected stakeholders sought and considered in making the policy?**

The Bill was subject to public consultation in October 2023 through the NSW Government Have Your Say website. External submissions were received from 12 individuals and were considered in finalising the Bill.

Government agencies were also consulted including the NSW Police Force, Department of Communities and Justice, the Information and Privacy Commissioner, the Cabinet Office, Treasury's Better Regulation Branch and NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT).

Phase 2 of the Authority's review involved extensive consultation with the combat sports sector. This included surveys of registered people (246 responses), face to face workshops (7 workshops held) and a survey of other regulators (37 responses).