



The Hon. David Elliott MP
Minister for Police and Emergency Services

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Committee Chair
Legislative Council Portfolio Committee No. 7 – Planning and Environment
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Dear Chair

Thank you for your correspondence regarding the Legislative Council's Inquiry into the health and wellbeing of kangaroos and other macropods in New South Wales.

I enclose responses to the questions raised in your letter with advice provided from the NSW Police Force's Firearms Registry (FR) and the Rural Crime Prevention Team (RCPT) as follows.

What effect does the existence of a kangaroo culling licence or a person's primary producer status have on the way police investigate or enforce firearms laws?

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force investigates alleged breaches of firearms licences irrespective of what licence an individual holds. This includes, for example, licences covering categories of Primary Producer, Contract Shooter, Recreational Hunter or Sports Target Shooter. Misconduct is identified by reference to which licence conditions have been breached.

What role do police have in ensuring that neighbouring landholders are not adversely affected or inadvertently harmed by shooting of kangaroos on properties?

I am advised:

It is the responsibility of the firearm licence holder to possess and use a firearm safely. This involves situational and safety awareness from the licence holder in terms of the presence of others, topography, neighbouring properties, and nearby structures including residential dwellings and roadways. In circumstances where a round is discharged into an area that is deemed to be unsafe, this action if reported, would be investigated by Police which may constitute a breach. In essence, it is an appreciation of the area where a licence holder is hunting, which involves constant reassessment in terms of risk to themselves, others and property.

The RCPT constantly engages with the community and key stakeholders in respect to reporting all rural crimes, which includes illegal hunting and firearm related matters. The RCPT conducts proactive multi-agency intelligence-based operations based upon information provided to police and those agencies.

All police have a responsibility to thoroughly investigate these matters.

What is the current police procedure to update or inform complainants or neighbouring landholders on outcomes of investigations into the use of firearms?

I am advised:

The NSWPF is guided by the Charter of Victims' Rights and the NSWPF Customer Service Guidelines in responding to those affected by crime. Whilst not all complainants are victims, the above is a level of service that is to be provided to those that are a victim of firearm related offences.

In terms of informing all complainants of the outcomes of an investigation, the possibility of jeopardising the investigation needs to be balanced against the need to keep people informed and / or privacy issues surrounding each individual matter.

There is no requirement to inform neighbouring landholders on outcomes of investigations into the use of firearms, however, police would generally canvass those properties as part of a thorough investigation.

What more could be done to ensure that local police respond in an appropriate and timely manner to complaints about shooting on neighbouring properties?

I am advised:

Local Police Districts (PDs) and Police Area Commands (PACs) attend and investigate these matters and work with the RCPT to address these issues. The RCPT may also respond to and/or review these matters on referral from the PD/PAC. Ongoing collaboration across police commands helps to ensure appropriate and timely responses to these complaints.

In addition, the Committee would welcome any suggestions you may have for how the current systems for management of licences to cull kangaroos, both commercial and non-commercial, might be improved, in the interests of community safety.

I am advised:

The prerequisite for obtaining the relevant licence is the successful completion of safety awareness qualifications, which are currently co-regulated by the NSW Firearms Registry and the Department of Primary Industries. In support, other agencies such as Local Land Services and National Parks and Wildlife provide a coordinated approach to delivering clear guidelines and codes of practice that remain an ongoing obligation of the licensee. Together this collaborative approach helps to ensure effective management of kangaroo cull licences.

I trust this information assists the Inquiry.

Yours sincerely



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