

	USE OF COUNCIL FIREARMS	
	CATEGORY:	GOVERNANCE
	LG ACT 2020 REF:	Part 277
	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to prescribe standards and accountabilities for the safe use and compliant keeping of firearms.

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to all authorised officers of Wagait Shire Council who have as part of their responsibilities, the safe and proper use of firearms.

3. DEFINITIONS - Nil

4. POLICY

- 4.1. Council firearms are to be used in accordance with the conditions of Council's licence, that is for animal control and welfare.
- 4.2. Council will maintain the appropriate licensing for its firearms.
- 4.3. The storage, safe use and maintenance of firearms will comply with the requirements as set out in the *Firearms Act 1997* and the *Firearms Regulations 1997*.
- 4.4. Ammunition for the firearms must be stored in a locked container that is kept separate from the receptacle containing the firearm.
- 4.5. Only Authorised officers of Council can use firearms and must maintain an incident log that records:
 - 4.3.1. each occasion the firearm is removed from storage;
 - 4.3.2. the reason the firearm is taken;
 - 4.3.3. any ammunition taken from the safe;
 - 4.3.4. the purpose for the ammunition; and
 - 4.3.5. any incident involving the use of the firearm.
- 4.6. Any use of the firearms should also be verbally reported to the Chief Executive Officer as soon as possible after the event. An audit will be undertaken by the Chief Executive Officer each time a firearm is used, to account for what ammunition has been taken and used.
- 4.7. If firearms are carried in a vehicle it must be secured in an appropriate manner. Ammunition for the firearms must be stored in a separate compartment of the

vehicle. If the vehicle is left unattended and a firearm is stored in the vehicle, the vehicle must be locked at all times and the firearm must be secured in the appropriate manner and obscured from view.

4.8. Authorised officers must clean the firearm and maintain it in a safe and functional condition at all times. Authorised Officers must report any faults or outside maintenance required immediately to the Chief Executive Officer. The Authorised Officer must ensure that the complaint is rectified within 7 days and must notify the Chief Executive Officer. Firearms will be sent to be professionally cleaned and sights checked bi-annually.

5. ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

P14 Dog Management Policy
P33 Work Health and Safety Policy

6. REFERENCES AND LEGISLATION

Animal Welfare Act 1999
NT Firearms Act 1997
NT Firearms Regulations 1997
NT Firearms Legislation Amendment Act 2020
Local Government Act 2008
Wagait Shire Council (Dog Management) By Laws 2019
Weapons Control Act 2001
Work Health and Safety (National Uniform legislation) Act 2011

7. REVIEW HISTORY

Date Approved 21/01/2007	Approved By Council Moved: Cr Clee Seconded: Cr Egan Vote: AIF	Resolution # 2007/07	Date for review Next Council Election
Date Approved 17/03/2009	Approved By Council Moved: Cr McIntyre Seconded: Cr Lamont Vote: AIF	Resolution # 2008/195	Date for review Next Council Election
Date Approved 15/09/2020	Approved By Council Moved: Cr P Clee Seconded: Cr G Drake Vote: AIF	Resolution # 2020/148	Date for review Next Council Election
Date Approved 18/01/2022	Approved By Council Moved: Vice President Tom Dyer Seconded: Cr Noeletta McKenzie Vote: AIF	Resolution # 2022/013	Date for review Next Council Election