

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

GUN LICENCE (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 1978

Explanatory Memorandum

The Gun Licence (Amendment) Ordinance 1978 amends the Gun Licence Ordinance 1937 by increasing gun licence and gun dealer's licence fees and some monetary penalties.

The increased fees are:

| | Old \$ | New \$ |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| Gun licence fee | 0.50 | 2.00 |
| Pistol licence fee | 0.50 | 15.00 |
| Gun dealer's licence fee | 2.00 | 100.00 |
| Penalty for being in possession of a gun or pistol without a licence | 20.00 | 100.00 |
| Penalty for using or carrying a gun or pistol without a licence during daylight hours | 40.00 | 100.00 |
| Penalty for using or carrying a gun or pistol without a licence at night | 100.00 | 500.00 |

Increasing costs associated with the administration of the Gun Licence Ordinance have meant that in recent years its costs of operation have not been matched by the fees which are payable under the Ordinance. The new fees have been calculated having regard to the Government's objective of attaining full cost recovery in this area. Broadly, the proposed increased fees reflect those which apply in New South Wales. However, in some instances the proposed fees are higher because the current New South Wales fees were introduced in 1975.

The increase in fees is greater in respect of pistol licences than gun licences because of the higher costs involved in screening applicants for pistol licences. This results from the need for greater security and care in screening which is essential because of the potential for misuse of a pistol arising largely out of its ease of concealment. The large increase in a gun dealer's licence fee also reflects the costs involved in achieving the security required for improved firearms control.

Increases in certain of the penalties which apply under the Gun Licence Ordinance 1937 will provide an effective deterrent to would-be offenders under the Ordinance.