



E-news December 2025

President's Message

Dear Members,

There has been confusion and misleading claims recently about the structure of the SSAA and the role of SSAA National (Inc). The SSAA operates under a federalised model: each state and territory is a separate legal entity, and you are a member of SSAA Queensland, not SSAA Inc. The national body exists to provide services to state associations.

Firearms are a state issue, and different states face a wide variety of local and varied issues, and so, it makes sense that the SSAA was structured along these lines.

A helpful comparison are the motoring groups: RACQ, NRMA, and RACV - all of which are independent state bodies that choose to belong to the Australian Automobile Association (AAA). Individuals join RACQ or NRMA - not the AAA itself. The state body RACQ is the one you've likely dealt with, rather than the AAA, since roads, vehicle registration, etc are state issues.

Queensland is by far the largest and best-resourced association, with more than 80,000 members and significant assets. Because of our size, capacity, and financial strength, throughout the years we have moved to providing more of the services our members need. Again, most issues affecting shooters - licensing, ranges, competitions, and politics - are state-based, and Queensland is well equipped to manage them directly and effectively.

It makes perfect sense for smaller states to utilise services from SSAA Inc. It does not make sense for Queensland to pay for services since we are able to provide them more effectively ourselves.

To be completely clear:

- SSAA Queensland is the organisation you belong to.
- SSAA Queensland is your genuine reason.
- Your public liability is provided and managed by SSAA Queensland.
- SSAA Queensland has more than 75 ranges and affiliates.
- SSAA Inc (National) has zero ranges or branches.
- SSAA Queensland is not going anywhere.

We will continue to act in the best interests of Queensland shooters and ensure your membership funds are used where they matter most now and into the future.

Sincerely,

Jeff Ross,

President SSAA Queensland 

Protecting law-abiding shooters

Australian Shooters Alliance continues consultation with the National Firearms Register
By Rachael Oxborrow



Tim and Rachael were in Canberra last week continuing to work to protect members and promote the shooting sports.

As targeted policy consultation continues on the National Firearms Register, the challenges faced by the broad scope of the work continue to be brought to light.

Most recently, I, alongside Executive Director Tim Bannister from SSAA Queensland's Australian Shooters Alliance (ASA), highlighted the intricacies at play when it comes to borrowing and lending, firearms categories and the differences in licensing between state and territory jurisdictions.

It's true to say that Tim and I are Australia's most experienced professional lobbyists in our subject matters and we jumped at the opportunity to engage on behalf of the ASA with the Register, now under the control of the Minister of Home Affairs, Tony Burke.

The consultation forms a part of the NFR Program, which is intended to be a four-year initiative and is expected to be operational by mid-2028. This timeframe captures the legislative, policy, data and technical improvements required to deliver on its law enforcement and community safety objectives.

As a part of this work, all states and territories and a number of Australian Government agencies are improving their registries, portals and management systems and this can include changes to legislation, policy, business processes, technical systems and data quality and consistency.


Putting aside the argument as to whether the costs of state-based firearm databases provide value for money in providing public safety outcomes, we know the firearms community is willing to work with firearms licensing authorities and the databases they manage. As a community we use firearms for sport, hobbies and pest management roles and we are required to interact with the state firearms registries.

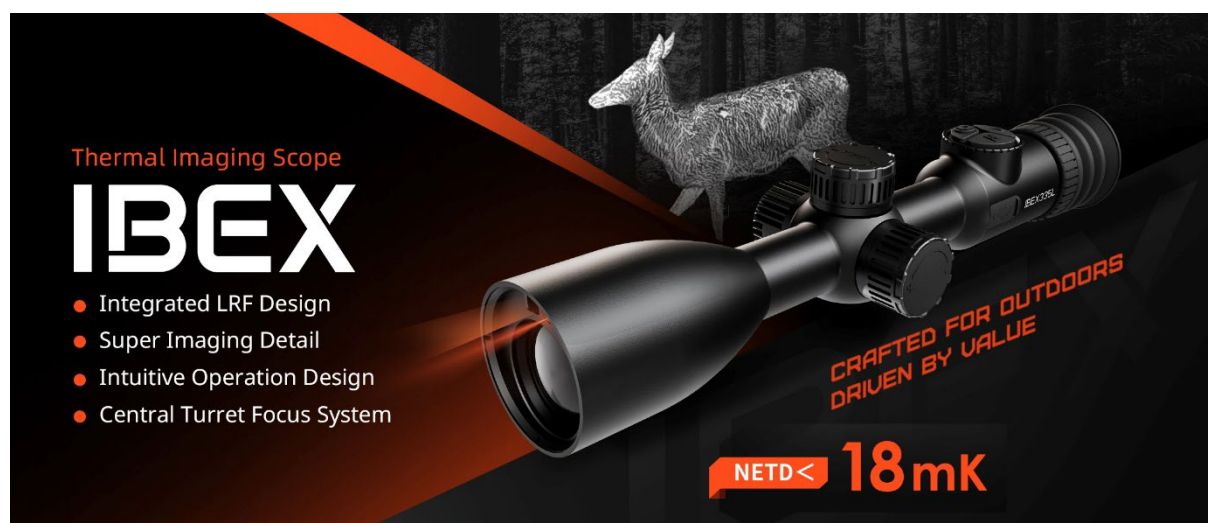
Since the concept of the national firearms register was flagged, the key requirement was tied to a near real-time capture of the movements of licensed firearms to assist law enforcement agencies and support their safety by having the most accurate information available through the state databases.

While logically this makes sense, the reality presents increasingly more ‘problems’ to solve. For instance, the practice of lending and borrowing firearms varies by jurisdiction and presents a complex scenario to address. In Queensland, for instance, borrowing and lending of firearms can be done legally between those with appropriate licence categories, and this is similar in Victoria. New South Wales regulations also allow for this, but the state’s police firearms branch notes that the stored location of firearms must be updated via the Firearms Registry within 14 days. In South Australia, a written loan agreement is required between the two firearms licence holders.

The aforementioned processes allow for safety of storage and licensing requirements, but don’t necessarily map real-time movements of firearms. Mapping these movements with a self-reporting system would assist in capturing the information the registry would require but adds another layer of bureaucracy to a part of society that is already heavily regulated. It is also problematic when the concept of traveling with firearms comes into play.

This consultation session also allows ASA to highlight inconsistencies in categorisation of firearms, range attendance and recording requirements. This discussion again presented an opportunity to reiterate across all topics of discussion that while there are efficiencies to be gained with consistency, the scope of the work will continue to creep and, as a result, the budget required.

The Australian Shooters Alliance remains engaged with the project leaders of the NFR to explain, provide guidance and represent the interests of law-abiding firearm owners. 






Australian Red Cross Lifeblood – donations needed

This Christmas, why not give a gift that saves lives? From January 2025 through to November 2025, SSAA members have made 234 whole-blood donations, which, according to the Australian Red Cross equates to 2751 lives saved.

Whole blood, plasma and platelets are all needed.

Why is blood and plasma donation so important?

-  **1 in 3** people will need blood or a blood product in their lifetime.
-  Yet only **1 in 30** eligible people aged 18+ donate.
-  1 donation **saves up to 3 lives**.

You're the gift and we need your donation.

- Visit your nearest [Lifeblood Donor Centre](#) to donate between **24 November – 4 January** and you'll receive a limited-edition festive bandage designed by Australian artist Nico Nicoson.

It is easy to let the holidays overwhelm you and take up a lot of your time, so it is especially important this time of year to continue your donations or to make a start. Roll up your sleeves to continue to support this worthy cause.



13 14 95 | lifeblood.com.au

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life IS THE REASON


Competition

WIN **GME MT610G Personal Locator Beacon**

Valued at **RRP \$410**

- Compact and Lightweight Design
- 7 year battery life
- IP68 Ingress Protection
- Australian Made

The advertisement features a hand holding a white GME MT610G Personal Locator Beacon. The device has a yellow top and a red button. It displays 'GME', 'ACCUSAT', and 'GPS' logos. A red 'X' is next to the GME logo, and a green checkmark is next to the GPS logo. The background is a blurred outdoor scene.

*Click [here](#) to enter. Prize valued at **\$410**. Competition closes December 31. 

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

COULD YOUR STUDIES OR PRIVATE PURSUITS FURTHER THE SHOOTING SPORTS?

If so, SSAA Queensland could help bolster your cause through a grant from the Australian Institute of Legislative Action (AILA) and the Australian Shooters Alliance (ASA), both owned by SSAA Queensland.

ELIGIBILITY

This funding is open to students of all levels of education and to private relevant pursuits. (Preference given to SSAA Queensland members or family.)

Applications will be approved by our panel and can be made once every 12 months.

TO APPLY: Email the following details to news@ssaaqld.org.au or apply via ssaaqld.org.au/news-events/funding/

- Name
- Address
- Date of birth
- Email address
- Field of study/endeavour (and status)
- A page summarising the costs associated with pursuit and the proposed use of funding.

Successful applicants may be interviewed for *The Report* magazine or SSAA Queensland's website or e-newsletter.

Grants of up to \$2000 are now available for relevant endeavours

Click [here](#) to apply.



The Report – December 2025

December's issue of *The Report* is out now. You can catch up on all the great content [here](#). Highlights from this issue include:

- Gundogs – a lifestyle, not a part-time hobby
- PARD Predator – Thermal Clip-On
- Rifle review: Wedgetail Mini – Compact, tough and accurate

Member Exclusive Deals

GEAR UP FOR LESS

Support those that support you!

We've partnered with trusted brands and industry leaders to bring you exclusive offers, deals & perks!

Save 10%-15% on a wide range of top-tier outdoor and shooting gear.

Get your **PROMO CODES** and shop now!

Click [here](#) to see all the deals on offer.