

Genuine Reason 4 – Animal Population Control

Note: This information sheet does not constitute legal advice and is for general information purposes only. Applicants and licensees are required to understand and comply with the *Firearms Act 1996* (“the Act”) and associated Regulations, which are available on the Tasmanian legislation website – www.legislation.tas.gov.au. This document was prepared in April 2023 based on the relevant legislation at that time.

A person needs to have a ‘genuine reason’ to possess or use a firearm to apply for a firearms licence. This information sheet explains how to apply for a firearms licence for the purpose of animal population control.

Which categories of firearms licence are available for animal population control?

- Category A, Category B, Category C and/or Category D licence.
- See *Information Sheet 3 Firearms Licence Categories* for more detail.

To obtain a firearms licence for animal population control the applicant must be:

- A professional shooter whose principal or only occupation is the business of controlling vertebrate pest animals;

OR

- A person employed by or in, or authorised by, a prescribed government agency that has functions relating to vertebrate pest animals (for example, the Department of Natural Resources and Environment (“the DNRE”)).

What documents are required to apply for a firearms licence for the purpose of animal population control?

FOR PROFESSIONAL SHOOTERS:

Category A:

The applicant is required to provide evidence to the Commissioner of Police’s (the Commissioner) satisfaction that their genuine reason for possessing or using the firearm is animal population control **AND** that they are a professional shooter whose principal or only occupation is the business of controlling vertebrate pest animals. Firearms Services requests that the documentation provided to prove these requirements are met includes: Taxation records demonstrating receipt of income from controlling vertebrate pest animals.

AND

A letter (ideally on business letterhead) from the relevant business including the following information:

- confirmation that the applicant is a professional shooter;
- the business name and ACN/ABN;



- confirmation that the principal or only occupation of the applicant is controlling vertebrate pest animals. If animal population control is not the only occupation of the applicant, information in relation to other professional occupations and the percentage of work each occupies in the role;
- details of the intended work:
 - frequency of shoots;
 - properties to be attended (if known); and
 - vertebrate pest animals to be controlled.

FOR PERSONS EMPLOYED BY OR IN, OR AUTHORISED BY, A PRESCRIBED GOVERNMENT AGENCY THAT HAS FUNCTIONS RELATING TO VERTEBRATE PEST ANIMALS:

Category A:

The applicant is required to provide evidence to the Commissioner's satisfaction that their genuine reason for possessing or using the firearm is animal population control **AND** that they are employed by or in, or authorised by, a prescribed government agency that has functions relating to vertebrate pest animals (for example, the DNRE). Firearms Services requests that the documentation provided to prove these requirements are met includes:

A letter from the prescribed government agency, ideally on official letterhead, including the following information:

- the applicant's full name and address;
- confirmation that the applicant is employed (or authorised) by the prescribed government agency;
- the applicant's job title/role;
- how the role relates to the control of vertebrate pest animals; and
- vertebrate pest animals to be controlled.

Category B:

All the Category A documents relevant to the applicant (professional shooter or employee/authorised person of prescribed government agency) plus: evidence to the

Commissioner's satisfaction that there is a need for the person to possess or use a firearm of the category to which the application relates.

Category C:

All of the Category A documents relevant to the applicant (professional shooter or employee/authorised person of prescribed government agency) plus: evidence to the Commissioner's satisfaction that there is a need for the person to possess or use a firearm of the category to which the application relates.

AND

evidence to the Commissioner's satisfaction that there is a need for the person to possess or use a firearm of the category to which the application relates.

AND

evidence to the Commissioner's satisfaction that the need is not met–

- by the authority conferred by a Category A firearms licence or a Category B firearms licence; or
- by any other means.

Category D:

All of the Category A documents relevant to the applicant (professional shooter or employee/authorised person of prescribed government agency) plus: evidence to the Commissioner's satisfaction that there is a need for the person to possess or use a firearm of the category to which the application relates.

Frequently asked questions (FAQ):

What is a 'vertebrate pest animal'?

- Vertebrate pest animals (also known as 'vermin') include rats, rabbits and feral cats.

Important note:

A licence or permit from the DNRE is usually **also** required for activities involving shooting animals. Check their website and contact the department for more information:

<https://nre.tas.gov.au/>

