



## MAPOON ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL Firearms Policy 2019-20

RESOLUTION NO. C147/19 VERSION V2

This is an official copy of the **Firearms Policy 2019-20** of **Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council**, made in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act and Regulations, Public Records Act, Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council's Local Laws, Subordinate Local Laws and current Council Policies.

The **Firearms Policy 2019-20** is a Statutory Policy.

Statutory policies are prepared in response to legislative requirements and mandate employee behaviour. This Policy is approved by the Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council for the guidance of Council and Council staff.

### 1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this procedure is to provide guidelines and information to efficiently and safely manage Council Firearms and their maintenance.

### 2. SCOPE

This procedure applies to the employer and relevant employees of the Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council.

### 3. REFERENCE

Work Health and Safety Act 2011  
Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011  
Weapons Act 1990  
Weapons Categories Regulation 1997  
Weapons Regulation 1996

### 4. DEFINITIONS

**Firearm-** is a tool that projects either single or multiple projectiles at a high velocity through a controlled explosion. The firing is achieved by the gases produced through rapid, confined burning of a propellant.



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### 5. RESPONSIBILITIES

The supervisor or person in control of the workplace is to ensure that all staff are aware of, and follow WH&S procedures. It is the responsibility of the employee to follow the procedures outlined.

#### SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

As required-



### 6. PROCEDURE

#### WEAPONS LICENCES

All authorised persons engaged in Animal management operations are required to hold a current weapons licence issued by the Commissioner of Police for the State of Queensland **BEFORE** handling or discharging any firearm during the course of their employment.

#### WEAPONS CATEGORIES



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Categories of weapons held or used by Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council include the following:

### Category A weapons

(1) Each of the following is a category A weapon if it has not been rendered permanently inoperable-

- a) a miniature cannon under 120 cm in barrel length that is a black powder and muzzle loading cannon, depicting a scale model of an historical artillery piece or naval gun;
- b) an air rifle;
- c) a blank-fire firearm at least 75 cm in length;
- d) a rim-fire rifle (other than a self-loading rim-fire rifle);
- e) a shotgun other than a pump action shotgun or self-loading shotgun;
- f) a powerhead;
- g) a break action shotgun and rim-fire rifle combination.

(2) A conversion unit is also a category A weapon.

(3) In this section-- "**conversion unit**" means a unit or device or barrel that is capable of being used for converting a category A weapon that is a firearm from one calibre to another calibre.

### Category B weapons

(1) Each of the following is a category B weapon if it has not been rendered permanently inoperable--

- a) a muzzle-loading firearm;
- b) a single shot centre-fire rifle;
- c) a double barrel centre-fire rifle;
- d) a repeating centre-fire rifle;
- e) a break action shotgun and centre-fire rifle combination.

(2) A conversion unit is also a category B weapon.

(3) In this section-- "**conversion unit**" means a unit or device or barrel that is capable of being used for converting a category B weapon that is a firearm from one calibre to another calibre.

### Category C weapons

Each of the following is a category C weapon if it has not been rendered permanently inoperable—



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- a) a semiautomatic rim-fire rifle with a magazine capacity no greater than 10 rounds;
- b) a semiautomatic shotgun with a magazine capacity no greater than 5 rounds;
- c) a pump action shotgun with a magazine capacity no greater than 5 rounds.

### Category D weapons

(1) Each of the following is a category D weapon—

- a) a self-loading centre-fire rifle designed or adapted for military purposes or a firearm that substantially duplicates a rifle of that type in design, function or appearance;
- b) a non-military style self-loading centre-fire rifle with either an integral or detachable magazine;
- c) a self-loading shotgun with either an integral or detachable magazine with a capacity of more than 5 rounds and a pump action shotgun with a capacity of more than 5 rounds;
- d) a self-loading rim-fire rifle with a magazine capacity of more than 10 rounds.

(2) Subsection (1) applies to a weapon mentioned in the subsection even if the weapon is permanently inoperable.

### **BASIC SAFETY RULES**

#### **Always point firearms in a safe direction**

Whether loaded or unloaded, make sure the muzzle is pointed in a SAFE direction. BE aware of where the bullet would go if firearm is discharged.

#### **Never have loaded firearms in the vehicle, home or office**

All firearms must be unloaded other than when they are being used to shoot. Ensure that when entering any vehicle, house or office that all ammunition has been removed from the firearm. A firearm is unloaded when it has no ammunition in its breech, chamber, magazine or muzzle.

#### **Identify your target and what is behind it**

Make certain of your target, and what is behind it before you fire. Be aware of the path of the bullet and where it will stop should you miss or should the bullet continue on after passing through the target.

#### **Never fire at a hard surface or at water**

Consider the area your target is in. Could a ricochet occur? A ricochet will almost result from shooting at flat smooth surfaces, water or hard surfaces such as rock.

#### **Store ammunition and firearms separately**

When not in use, your firearm must be stored in a locked container with the ammunition stored separately. Firearms must be unloaded with the bolt removed if possible or the action broken.



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#### **No alcohol or drugs when handling firearms**

Alcohol, drugs and medicines may impair judgement and coordination that are essential for the safe use of firearms. It is an offence to be in physical possession of, or use a firearm whilst under the influence of liquor or a drug.

#### **Do not climb fences or obstacles**

Make sure before attempting to climb through a fence or negotiating any obstacle that your firearm is unloaded. Do not rely on safety catches.

#### **EXCLUSION**

Personnel who are not licensed to operate a firearm are not allowed to handle firearms.

#### **TRANSPORTING OF FIREARMS**

It is an offence in accordance with the provision of the Weapons Regulations 1996 to transport a weapon without a permit. Authorised persons are authorised to transport firearms as incidental to their licence activities (Weapons Regulation 1996 section 3A (1) refers).

#### **COMPETENCIES FOR OFFICERS**

All authorised persons holding weapons licences are required to undergo periodic instruction bi-annually in the safe handling regarding the category of weapons that they possess.

#### **SAFE STORAGE OF FIREARMS**

All firearms are to be stored in the gun cabinet supplied by Council at all times when not being transported during the course of normal duties.

#### **OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Animal Management Officer and the Mapoon Land & Sea Ranger Coordinator will be responsible for safety and the care, maintenance and cleaning of Council issued firearms in accordance with Attachment 1 of these orders.

Animal Management Officers shall be responsible for the establishment and maintenance of a system of checks and standards to ensure that firearms are maintained and in functional condition.

All permanently issued weapons are to be inspected annually to ensure that firearms have not been altered in any way that may cause the firearm to be unsafe prior to issuing the weapon for use, and documented in the Firearm Maintenance Record.

#### **MAINTENANCE AND CARE OF FIREARMS**



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Your firearm has been designed to operate to certain factory specifications. You will jeopardise your safety and that of others around you by attempting to alter its trigger, mechanical safety or other mechanisms. **NEVER** alter or modify your firearm in any way.

Like any mechanical device, a firearm is subject to wear. It must be maintained and periodically serviced to assure optimum safety and performance. Only a qualified licensed service facility should repair or modify your firearm. Consult the instruction manual for instruction on how to send your firearm to the factory or to the location of the nearest repair station.

Proper cleaning and lubrication are also important to firearm maintenance and are necessary to assure accuracy, safety and reliability. Before cleaning, always make sure that your weapon is completely unloaded. Always clean the barrel from the chamber to the muzzle.

### Attachment 1

#### MAPOON ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL- FIREARMS INVENTORY

MODEL	SERIAL NUMBER	DATE PURCHASED
1) 1 x .308 Ruger Rifle	68052813	02/07/2014
2) 1 x .308 Ruger Rifle	68085830	10/05/2016
3) 1 x Churchill – 12 Gauge Double Barrell Shot Gun	– TS871S – 15305829	Unknown
4) 1 x .22 Savage Magnum - Model 93	1376791	Unknown





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**1. Policy Version and Revision Information**

**Policy authorised and adopted by:**

Naseem Begam Chetty: Chief Executive Officer and The Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council.

**Original issue:** 1/5/19

**Policy Maintained by:** Executive Manager Finance

**This version:** 3.0

**Date Adopted:**

**Review date:** 30/6/2020





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**2. Workplace Participant Acknowledgement**

I acknowledge:

- a) Receiving this MASC Policy;
- b) That I should comply with this policy; and
- c) That there may be disciplinary consequences if I fail to comply, including termination of employment.

**Your name:**

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**Signed:**

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**Date:**

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