Disposal facilities – What you need to know

# Background/Purpose

On 3 May 2024, the *Weapons Control Act 2001* (WCA) and the *Weapons Control Regulations 2001* (WCR) will be amended for prohibited weapon approvals to be issued to security, training and disposal providers and their employees to possess, carry and use Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) Spray and Aerosol Subject Restraints (ASRs), subject to certain conditions.

# Some facts for Disposal providers

* The Northern Territory Police Force (NTPF) Firearms Policy and Recording Unit (FPRU) will be accepting applications for these approvals from 3 May 2024
* Disposal facilities must dispose of OC Spray and/or ASR in a manner that minimises risk of exposure to their employees, the public and the environment
* All employees that may handle OC Spray and/or ASRs, for the purposes of transporting and disposal, must have their own approval
* Approvals for disposal facility employees are linked to their employer. Employees will need a separate approval for each employer, if applicable (i.e. casual employees that work for multiple disposal facilities, disposal facility employees that change employers)
* Storage of the OC Spray and/or ASRs must be inspected by FPRU prior to issuing any approval. Storage will be subject to conditions
* Disposal facilities must also provide safe storage for their employees to transport the OC Spray and/or ASRs to the disposal facility
* A register of OC Spray and/or ASRs disposals must be kept to record the location the weapons were collected and the quantity of items disposed
* Disposal facilities must ensure that their employees are familiar with their requirements under occupational health and safety legislation with regards to handling potentially harmful substances
* Application forms are available on the Northern Territory Police website, under Firearms and Weapons Information

# What you can do to prepare

* Implement a register to record OC Spray and ASR disposal (if one is not already in place for other hazardous materials)
* Ensure adequate storage facilities are available for inspection including those used to transport the weapons to the disposal facility
* Ensure employees are up to date with their internal policies and procedures for the handling of hazardous materials

# What you need to provide

* Business registration certificate
* Letter detailing justification for all reasons selected on the application

Applicable conditions and requirements are subject to change. For all further enquiries, please contact the Firearms Policy and Recording Unit on 08 8922 3543.