

Legislative Council petition #610 | presented 14 October 2025 (Police)

Petition Sponsor: David Limbrick
Portfolio: Police

The petition of certain citizens of the State of Victoria draws to the attention of the Legislative Council the need to introduce and implement an online renewal system for firearm, private security individuals and business licences and registration to eliminate the reliance of the Licensing and Regulation Division (LRD) on paper-based renewals and payment notices.

Accessible through Service Victoria or Victoria Police eServices, this online portal should allow current licensees, not new applicants, to submit renewal applications and pay for renewals online, similar to New South Wales using Service NSW.

It would enhance the transaction experience and reduce LRD's reliance on paper-based renewals by setting up automatic emailing of renewal invoices that would give applicants a number to enter on the portal to pay. This in turn would eliminate the need for mailed payment notices. It would also provide clear instructions of the renewal process as well as a more accessible system for those remotely working with no access to a bank or BPAY. This would give more options than the current two methods. You would be able to fill in the probity questions and upload any supporting evidence required in the form, as per the usual probity process. LRD would then be able to manually approve the application and email a photo notice, similar to NSW, once probity has been completed and payment has been done.

The portal would provide more flexibility and easier access to LRD for licence holders and provide an easier workload on LRD staff, who have been working tirelessly since 2020 to try and clear the backlog of paper-based new and renewal applications. LRD staff could then better focus their resources to compliance enforcement and quicker processing. It would also save on printing costs and mailing of such documents.

The petitioners therefore request that the Legislative Council call on the Government to introduce and implement an online renewal portal for firearms licences and private security licences and renewals that would replace the current paper-based payment and mailed application renewal process.

Reply:

The Victorian Government acknowledges the importance of digital technology in streamlining processes and enhancing public services. In partnership with Service Victoria, Victoria Police has launched the Firearms and Private Security Digital Program to modernise licensing services. The program is currently in its pilot phase, focusing on online renewals for most firearms licence categories and the introduction of digital licences.

During the pilot, eligible firearms licence holders are randomly selected and invited by email to renew their licence online via Service Victoria. The process is fully digital, allowing applicants to verify their identity, upload supporting documents, and pay fees through the platform. This controlled rollout enables the project team to closely monitor system performance and provide tailored support.

Participants can also add their firearms licence to the Service Victoria Digital Wallet, where it can be verified instantly using a QR code, similar to VicRoads' digital driver licence. Plastic licence cards will continue to be issued.

Victoria Police has recently introduced a change to reduce regulatory burden by allowing the reuse of firearms and private security licence photos taken within the past 10 years. As a result, most renewal applicants no longer need to attend an authorised photo point when renewing their licence or applying for an additional licence category.



The Hon. Anthony Carbines MP
Minister for Police
Minister for Community Safety
Minister for Victims
Minister for Racing